

House Family Saga

Introduction

Our House family is well rooted in the English county of Somerset (the name means farmstead used in summer), at least from the late 1600's, throughout the 1700's, and almost all of the 1800's. Somerset is at the base of the neck of land in southwest England which protrudes westward into the Atlantic Ocean. Only the counties of Devon and Cornwall reside to the west of Somerset. The northern border of Somerset is the southern coast of the Bristol Channel. In the South, only narrow strips of land from Devon and Dorset counties preclude Somerset from reaching the English Channel. To the east, Somerset is bounded by the counties of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. The focus of activity for our House clan appears to be confined, up until the 20th century, primarily to two parishes in Somerset – Taunton and Chard.

A brief synopsis of the “Narrative History of the County of Somerset” by Brenda Ralph Lewis and David Nash Ford follows.

Somerset has a pre-history going back to around 11,000 BC when families lived in Gough’s Cave near Cheddar. Around 4,300 BC, wooden causeways were built across the marshes. Around 700 BC, great Iron Age hill forts (e.g. Cadbury Castle) were built but none of the local defenses could withstand the assault of Imperial Rome’s forces.

During the early period of Roman occupation, the area of Somerset became a militarized zone. The great Fosse Way (military highway) was built across the region as early as 49 AD and Roman forces marched along the route between forts. The strong military presence was needed to protect the flow of agricultural products and mining endeavors (salt, lead, silver, coal, iron, etc.).

By 200 AD, military influence in Somerset had significantly declined and large tracts of land were being sold to private individuals in an attempt to bolster a crumbling Imperial economy. The agricultural importance of the region soon turned the old Roman forts into busy trading and communications centers. For example, Ilchester soon emerged as a town with planned street grids, town-houses and organized drainage. By the third century, Ilchester had become an administrative (Civil) capital for the local commanding area.

The most notable town in Somerset at the time was Bath, located in the northeast portion of the county. Temples and a vast bath complex exploited constant temperature (46 ½ degree Cent.) hot springs prevalent in the area (even today – 2005). The pagan revival of the early 4th century AD fostered the construction of many rural hill-top temples.

However, by the late 4th century AD, Christianity had become a strong force and took over many of the pagan temples.

With the withdrawal of the Roman Administration around 410 AD, the door was opened for the Dark Ages to begin. Urban life continued to decline and life reverted to largely rural existence. Local self-styled ‘kings’ emerged to both control the land and to protect its people from continuing Saxon and Irish invasions. The Iron Age hill forts were expanded and refortified for protection. Around 500 AD, the Anglo-Saxon advance was thoroughly crushed for a generation at the great Siege of Mount Badon. The local leader of the English forces was, of course, King Arthur. Another Somerset King, named Melwas, gained fame for – among other things – once having kidnapped Queen Guinevere.

The Anglo-Saxons renewed their interests in the Romano-British Celts in Somerset after they defeated three of the local kings at the Battle of Dyrham in 577 AD. It wasn’t until about 661 AD that the Anglo-Saxon King of Wessex was able to move his forces through Somerset into Devon. Subsequently, the Wessex kings granted numerous estates in Somerset to warriors in their army. By 710 AD, the Dumnonian (dominant tribe in Somerset) armies were crushed and Anglo-Saxon rule pervaded throughout Somerset. By 968 AD, Somerset had become one of the heartland shires of the Kingdom of Wessex. Somerset’s support of Wessex was strongly encouraged in order to counter Viking attacks from Scandinavia from 878 to 988 AD.

Somerset, therefore, was already a well-organized county by the time of the Norman invasion in 1066. The Norman aristocracy took over the Saxon noble estates. By 1086, there were only about 75 Saxon land holders. The King was the major land holder and what remained was divided up among 44 Norman tenants-in-chief. The feudal system introduced by the Normans reorganized peasant life but did little to improve their existence. There were many unfree tenant farmers owning about 16 hectares (40 acres) apiece, a larger number with smaller holdings, and an increasing mass of landless wage earners. The difficulties increased as the population grew.

Agriculture in late medieval Somerset operated on both the mixed farming system and by open-field farming on land held in common with others. The mixed farming system employed many different agricultural specialists – drovers, ox-herders, shepherds, swine herds, dairy workers, etc. With so much live stock around, poaching became a problem.

Fertile and flourishing, Somerset was an advantageous place to be in medieval times, until the climate turned against its agriculture and disease, most particularly the Black Death, decimated its population. Those who survived the plague (regardless of rank) were able to claim unprecedented advantages. Wage rates soared, estates were broken up, and feudal obligations were eliminated. Life in the countryside underwent huge social change and life in the towns gained momentum.

Though many of the old families of Somerset survived the devastating War of the Roses, the accession of King Henry Tudor to the throne and, later, the dissolution of the

monasteries brought opportunities for many ‘new men’ in the county. By the 16th century, Somerset was a place of great diversity. The following century, however, brought great turmoil in this idyllic rural scene. The Civil War between King Charles I and his Parliament tore the inhabitants of Somerset in two. The Somerset gentry, and most of the rural population, were Royalists while the town’s people, particularly in the north, were staunch supporters of Parliament. Having been a battle ground over which armies marched, fought, plundered, burned, the inhabitants of Somerset were reduced to a state close to destitution.

By the 18th century, the Somerset gentry were well established and firmly in command of their county. The yeomen farmers of Somerset had a less elaborate but still comfortable life on their own farms. The independence of these ordinary farmers was their most valued asset. However, little by little, freedom was eroded as the fields and common land of Somerset were enclosed and larger and larger farms were created, swamping the smaller farmers and condemning farm laborers to scandalously low wages, and squalid living conditions. A series of bad harvests at the end of the 18th century worsened the situation even further and so did the high bread prices which resulted from the Napoleonic Wars. Some family incomes were pitifully small. In 1795, parents with as many as five children living at Stogursey were struggling on a mere eight shillings a week and there were even deaths from hunger. Some smallholders were forced to sell their animals, their only source of income, in order to buy food.

Farm work became even more insecure with the introduction of machines which were seen as a threat to livelihoods. There were several attempts to destroy the machines, 1830-1831, at the time of the Swing Riots, two were demolished at Yenston and Henstridge . Threats were made, too, to burn hayricks belonging to the gentry. After 1834, when a new Poor Law was enacted, the only alternative for some was the terrifying workhouse.

Others chose emigration, which was encouraged by the government. . Agricultural laborers could obtain free passage to Australia, and there were cheap fares on offer to New York and Quebec. For those left behind in Somerset, friendly societies for mutual aid were organized after 1827, but though well-meaning, they could not transform society by encouragement. In 1867, the Report into the Conditions of Women and Children in Agriculture painted a depressing picture of neglect, non-viable land holdings, cramped living conditions, few, if any, allotments for growing food combined with apathy, lack of education and medieval beliefs in witchcraft and superstition. Somerset was nevertheless on the brink of vast improvements that would do much to lift its population out of the economic mire. New turnpike roads came to the county, as well as new means of communication in the canals and railways. Farm machinery, now less feared, could now be brought in more easily, and so could new breeds of animals to improve the existing stocks. Under this modernizing impetus, farm production began to grow, export markets were established and new industries, and jobs, came to Somerset - in the brick and tile works at Bridgewater, the glassworks at Nailsea, and elsewhere, in the leather, canvas and sailcloth manufactures, ironware and woolen goods.

The drive to improve public health, an important feature of life in England in the 19th century, brought piped water and sewage systems to Somerset towns and reservoirs were built to provide a continuous water supply, for instance at Taunton in 1878. By the end of the 19th century, together with improvements in medical science, housing, sanitation and communications the people of Somerset were enjoying benefits inconceivable to generations a century or so earlier.

Members of our House clan have been firmly entrenched in the area of Stoke St. Gregory from, at least, the 1600's to the present (2006). The records and graveyard of the St. Gregory Church bear testimony to their presence. (*Writer's Note: In fact, available records from Stoke St. Gregory show a House family presence there in the early 1500's.*) The rural village of Stoke St. Gregory is located on a ridgeline extending into the moors, which lies alongside the River Tone and terminates at the River Parrett. Stoke St. Gregory is about 8 miles northeast of the town of Taunton; just across the River Tone from Athelney Hill of King Alfred fame; and about 12 miles west of Glastonbury (Isle of Avelon), the legendary home of King Arthur.

Our component of the House clan moved to the parish of Chard in the 1840's and stayed there for almost the remainder of the century. The parish of Chard is just south-southeast of the parish of Taunton, encompassing the highest ground between the British (Bristol) and English Channels, abutting the southern boundary of Somerset near its intersection with Devon and Dorset counties (shires). The towns of Chard and Ilminster lie within the parish of Chard. By the late 1800's, Ilminster is the center of its own parish.

While it is certain, for all practical purposes, that our House family was in the village of Stoke St. Gregory in the parish of Taunton, county of Somerset in the late 1600's with Christopher House as the first generation, there are, at least, two known possible routes which brought them to Stoke St. Gregory. At present (2006), there are two baptismal church records which apparently separate the two options. It is left to future generations to resolve the apparent conflict.

The first option for our House ancestors being in Stoke St. Gregory will be called "The Dutch Story," a tale handed down to Colin Martin House, ninth generation, by his grandfather Harry Clark House of the seventh generation.

The Dutch Story

This is one of Harry's stories; often they had some truth in them, but may have been based on things he had read or heard that chimed with other things he had stumbled across in his youth, at school, in the Boys Brigade [a nonconformist youth organisation], or from family comments or just general reading of which he was very fond.

As a theory for the House Family roots it may well have merit although the link has to be seen as tenuous at best. Harry's view was that the

original House was a Dutchman whose name may have sounded like ‘House’. Eg Frans Hals who painted the ‘Laughing Cavalier’ in 1624, has a name which could perhaps be confused as being something like house when spoken by a Dutchman. Also in the West of England the various local accents may have distorted both to make them close in sound. Of course, both Dutch and German have ‘Haus’ which is house in both sound and meaning and may therefore be the more likely root.

The argument for a Dutch root rests on the result of the turmoil that existed in England during the Seventeenth Century. Briefly it opened with Queen Elizabeth on the Throne, Shakespeare hard at work, the start of an empire in America, a clear brake with Rome becoming more and more accepted by the common people, but no successor other than the Stuarts, Kings of Scotland. They inherited the Crown and became Kings of England and Scotland, still two countries and not yet united. This inheritance Charles I virtually threw away by forcing conflict with Parliament, the People and the Church. The Civil War followed, a bankrupt republic dissolved for lack of vision, Charles II came back and ruled quite well and wisely but had no children by his wife, his brother James III was a fool like his father. Churchill’s ancestor, the great general, the Duke of Marlborough switching sides helped William of Orange become King.

William arrived in 1688 at Torbay near Exeter and not that far from our roots in Somerset. His fleet was said to consist of 600 ships carrying some 15,000 Dutch and German troops. He came by invitation and not as conqueror but as ‘Protector of Protestantism and Liberty’ – the Bill of Rights of 1689 was passed during his reign – which it is said was the inspiration for the US Bill of Rights. However Dutch preferment by William resulted in them being out of favour with the English, so it could be that changing your name to something English or marriage to a local may have been a smart move.

So we could be descended from one of the Dutch or may be a German – the latter being perhaps more likely – although politically unacceptable to Harry in the 1940/50’s. It could also explain why when I am on a bus in Berlin or a tram [streetcar] in Munich people ask me the way or which stop they need for their destination.

CMH 4th Apl 2006

The second option is far less romantic. Several members of our House clan believe our lineage is Anglo-Saxon. Hence, a second option is to simply accept the presence of Ancestors in Stoke St. Gregory in the 1600’s and move forward from there. The origin of our story to follow will proceed from this latter option.

First Generation

Christopher House

The point in time when a story begins is almost always a bit arbitrary, and this story will be no exception. Our tale will begin with Christopher House, baptized 28 February 1693, in Stoke St. Gregory in the parish of Taunton, county of Somerset, as our “first generation” House ancestor.



Church of St. Gregory

Christopher’s parents were Christopher and Mary House but their birth and marriage dates are unknown. Mary was apparently Christopher senior’s second wife; his first wife was Radigan Bray and their marriage was childless. Christopher’s parents may have been born somewhere near Stoke St. Gregory in the early-to-mid 1650’s; and they were probably married around 1681-2.

We know a little about Christopher’s early childhood; times were difficult and survival belonged to the most fortunate of the fittest. Christopher is believed to have had at least five siblings and was apparently his parent’s last child. His siblings are believed to have been:

Mary, a sister, baptized 5 April 1683;
Christopher, a brother, baptized 3 December 1687 and buried 4 December 1687;
Reynold, a brother, baptized 30 January 1689;
An unbaptized child buried 4 September 1690; and

Christopher, a brother, baptized 8 November 1691 and buried 23 March 1692.

Our Christopher House was his father's third attempt at having a Christopher, junior. Christopher's father died 26 August 1720, probably in his 60's. His mother may have died either on 10 January 1703 or 24 September 1727. Either date could very well be the death of Christopher's older sister Mary; also the latter date could be the death of Christopher's daughter Mary (see below).

On 21 February 1723, Christopher married Mary Bond, from a local family, in St. Gregory Church in Stoke St. Gregory. Christopher and Mary Bond are recorded as having four children. These four children and their baptismal dates are:

John, a son, on 31 August 1724;
Paulina, a daughter, on 8 May 1726;
Mary, a daughter, on 6 July 1727; and
Christopher, a son, born on 18 March 1730 and baptized on 12 April 1730.

The prosperity of later generations suggests that our Christopher, as well as his father, may have been farmers of substantial means in the Stoke St. Gregory area.

Christopher, our "first generation" apparently died on 17 January 1742 at age 49. His wife, Mary Bond House, and his daughter Mary House may have died within five years of each other; St. Gregory records two burials of a Mary House in the 1760's, the first on 24 August 1760 and the second on 28 May 1765.

Our story will continue with John House, Christopher and Mary Bond's oldest son, as the second generation.



Alter of Church of St. Gregory

Second Generation

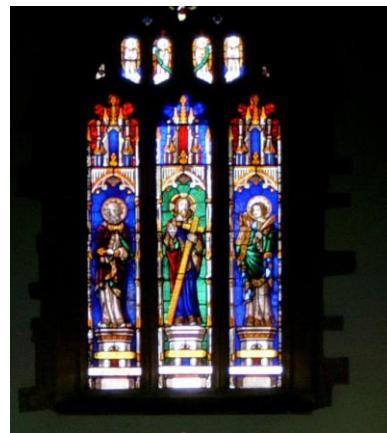
John House

John House is believed to have been born on 31 August 1724 in Stoke St. Gregory, parish of Taunton, Somerset. He was the son of Christopher and Mary Bond House. As the first son, John, at the age of 18, apparently inherited significant land holdings upon his father's early death. John apparently went out of Stoke St. Gregory to marry a woman named Martha, sometime around 1752 (at the age of about 28). John and Martha returned to the Stoke St. Gregory area to live and raise their family, probably at Parsonage Farm. According to the baptismal records of the Church of St. Gregory, John and Martha had six children.

James was baptized on 21 October 1754;
Thomas on 7 December 1755;
Sally on 14 February 1757;
Rachel on 2 June 1758;
Mary on 19 May 1760; and
William on 19 November 1761.

John died at age 52 and was buried on 7 February 1777 in the graveyard of the Church of St. Gregory. John apparently paid for the burial on 22 December 1776. Martha's death and burial are unknown at this time (June 2005).

Our story will continue with Thomas House, John and Martha's second son, as the third generation.



Stained Glass Window, Church of St. Gregory

Third Generation

Thomas House

Thomas House was baptized on 7 December 1755 in Stoke St. Gregory. On 16 September 1776, at age 21, Thomas married Jane Palmer, age approximately 22. The ceremony was performed by T. Goodwyn, curate, and witnessed by John Brewer and Henry Kierke.

Thomas and Jane got a head start on raising a family.

Their first son John was baptized on 2 February 1777;
Followed by Elizabeth on 3 May 1779;
William on 21 November 1781;
James on 13 January 1784; and
Jane on 30 March 1785.

The year after Thomas and Jane were married, Thomas's father died and Thomas inherited significant land holdings. Thomas was the "Lord of the Manor of Stoke St. Gregory." His home, and probably that of his father and grandfather, was Parsonage Farm, located about midway between Lane End in Stoke St. Gregory and Stathe.

Thomas's wife Jane died at age 31 and was buried on 26 September 1785 – six months after her namesake and last child was baptized. Thomas apparently did not remarry after Jane's death and remained a widower until his death in 1837, at age 82. Both are buried at the Church of St. Gregory in Stoke St. Gregory, Taunton, Somerset.

(Writer's Note: The reader is strongly encouraged to read "A Narrative of Thomas House and His Children" which may be found as an addendum to the House Family Saga. The original author of the Narrative was Francis Trivitt House, a great grandson of Thomas. The Narrative has been meticulously recorded, amplified and expanded by Robert John Harvey, a descendant of Thomas's oldest son John.)

Our story will continue with James House, the third son of Thomas and Jane House, as the fourth generation.

Fourth Generation

James House

James House was born on 13 January 1784 at Parsonage Farm in Stoke St. Gregory, Taunton, Somerset. He almost certainly spent his early years helping work the various family farms and, as he reached adulthood, helped manage them. On 25 April 1808, James married Elizabeth Brewer, a close neighbor. The ceremony was performed in the Church of St. Gregory by Samuel Abraham and witnessed by Elizabeth's father Joshua Brewer. James was 24 and Elizabeth 25, having been baptized on 18 August 1783. By the time of his marriage, James was reported to be living at the Curry Load farm, which at some point in time he inherited from his father. James lived his entire life at Curry Load (Curload) and raised his family there.

Records of the Church of St. Gregory, although somewhat confusing, indicate that James and Elizabeth had at least 9 children and possibly 12. The first three children were all baptized on 29 January 1812. The first six children were:

Mary Jean (Jane), born about July 1809;
William, born about July 1810;
Eliza, born about July 1811;
Charles, born about 1812 - 13;
Henry, baptized on 17 June 1815; and
Richard, baptized on 14 November 1817.



The Church of St. Gregory

James and Elizabeth's next three children were not baptized until 21 October 1824.

Their seventh child, John, was born about October 1817; their eighth, Ann, was born about 1821 (died young); and their ninth, Martha, was born about October 1823.

The fore-mentioned nine children are the only ones identified by Francis Trivitt House in his Narrative; however, the records at the Church of St. Gregory suggest that James and Elizabeth may have had difficulty in obtaining a son named Francis. The records appear to indicate that James and Elizabeth baptized a son named Francis on 16 May 1819, who subsequently died on 30 May 1819. A second son Francis appears to have been baptized on 13 October 1822; he subsequently died on 8 December 1822. Finally, a third son Francis appears to have been baptized on 18 February 1826, but no subsequent record of his life has been found.

According to Francis Trivitt House, James "was a man of good education and took great interest in Parish affairs. He was an overseer and Church warden for many years. Curry Load was noted for the hospitality it dispensed."

The 1841 English Census shows James and Elizabeth still farming in Stoke St Gregory and living at Curload (Curry Load); only Eliza, John and Martha are still living with their parents. The ages of all in the family are understated by 2 to 5 years. James was recorded as 55 (57); Elizabeth – 55 (58); Eliza – 25 (30); John – 20 (24); and Martha – 15 (18). Also living with the family are Richard Rowsell, age 50, an agricultural laborer and Charles Cluoze, age 15, an apprentice agricultural laborer. In addition, there are numerous other families living at Curry Load performing a variety of occupations.

By the time of the 1841 English Census, the other five known children had left home to start their own lives. Mary Jane married William Pain and moved to Taunton where her husband had a Chandler's business. William, apparently unwilling to wait-out his father for an oldest son's inheritance, married Ann Barrington and purchased the Downing's Farm in Tatworth, near Chard. Henry became a draper and a photographer, married and moved to Taunton. Charles, also unwilling to wait around for property inheritance, left for America; he married and settled in Illinois. Richard started as a draper and then switched to the provision's trade, married and settled on High Street in Taunton.

Unfortunately, neither James, Elizabeth nor Curload have been identified in the 1851 English Census.

Upon James's death, his youngest son, John, who had already married Elizabeth Trivitt and started his family, inherited Curry Load (Curload) after making settlement with his siblings.

James died on 11 July 1851 at the age of 67. Elizabeth followed him four years later on 11 May 1855 at the age of 71. Both are buried in the graveyard at the Church of St. Gregory, Stoke St. Gregory, Taunton, Somerset.

(Writer's Note:

1. *The reader is again encouraged to read Francis Trivitt House's Narrative, attached as an addendum to the SAGA for a more descriptive narrative of James and his children.*
2. *The occasional delay in the baptizing of children and, in some instances, the apparent failure to baptize a child might well be attributed to the absence of a Vicar. Not all churches had a Vicar all the time, hence, on occasion, certain church sacraments [e.g. baptisms, marriages, burials, etc.] had to be delayed until a Vicar could be secured.)*

Our story will continue with William House, the first son of James and Elizabeth, as the fifth generation.



Stocks at Stoke St. Gregory

Fifth Generation

William House

William House was born about July 1810 in Stoke St. Gregory in the county of Somerset. William certainly spent his early years working Curry Load, the family farm. As a young man, William fell in love with a local girl, about his same age, named Ann Barrington. Both the House and Barrington families were firmly entrenched in Stoke St. Gregory.

William continued to work his father's farm until his late 20's, when he decided to secure a farm of his own. Land around Stoke St. Gregory was probably a little expensive and not readily available. A better deal was found just west of due south in the hamlet of Indworth (Tatworth), near the town of Chard, in the parish of Chard. William took possession of his farm (believed to be Downing's Farm) and most probably set about putting it in order with great determination. Once his farm was fully operational, he returned to Stoke St. Gregory to marry his Ann (Anne). The Marriage Register in the Church of St. Gregory for 1840 records the event on page 13, entry number 25 as follows:

4th June 1840. William House of full age, bachelor, yeoman from Indworth near Chard, father was James House, yeoman.
Ann (Anne) Barrington of full age, spinster, from Lane End in the parish of Stoke St Gregory, father was John Barrington, yeoman.
Both signed their names. Witnesses were Sophia Barrington and Henry Barrington.

The witnesses Sophia and Henry Barrington were Ann's siblings.

Records at the Church of St. Gregory show Ann Barrington being born sometime in October 1810 and baptized on 22 January 1811. Ann's parents were John and Ann Barrington. Her known siblings and their birth and baptismal dates are as follows:

John, born about October 1804 and baptized on 30 December 1806;
Dianna, born about February 1812 and baptized on 30 May 1815;
Sophia, baptized on 30 May 1815;
Henry, born on 9 September 1817 and baptized on 3 June 1823; and
Eliza, born on 29 February 1820 and baptized on 3 June 1823.

Immediately following their marriage, William and Ann returned to their farm in the hamlet of Indworth (Tatworth). On 28 February 1841, William and Ann had their first child, a son they named James, and had him baptized on 13 March 1841. The 1841

English Census shows William, Ann and a 3 month old James living in the Downing's Farm House in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. The Downing's Farm House, on the northern edge of the village of Tatworth, would prove to be the "childhood home" for all of William and Ann's children.

Between 1842 and 1851, William and Ann had at least six more children, four daughters and two sons, all born in Tatworth, Chard:

A daughter, Elizabeth, born 7 March 1842 and baptized on 6 April 1842;
 a son, John Barrington, was born 24 November 1843 and baptized 27 December 1843;
 a daughter, Ann Barrington, was born 8 June 1845;
 a daughter, Jane, was born 7 May 1847;
 a daughter, Eliza Barrington, was born 14 July 1849; and
 a son, William Brewer, was born 4 June 1851.

In 1851 William was enumerator for the tithing areas of Tatworth and Forton, which comprised "Cranway, the village of Forton, Wreath, Horne, Whitegate, Blackland, Coombes, Knap Mills, Wreath Green, the whole of Tatworth Street, Marlpits Cottages and Parrocks Lodge." There were 89 inhabited and 4 uninhabited houses in Tatworth at the time; among occupations, the largest was Agricultural Laborers – 57; second largest was Lace Workers – 37.

The 1851 English Census does not specifically identify the Downing's Farm; only that they were in the Tatworth Tything (tax) area of the parish of Chard, Somerset. This Census shows William and Ann, both age 40, living with five of their children (James – 10, John B. – 8, Ann B. – 5, Jane – 3, and Eliza – 6 months). Eliza's age is incorrect on the census; she is actually 21 months old. William works a 160 acre farm with his son James and employs three men and two boys. Two of his employed workers, Robert Modson and Jerry Pram, live with the family. At the time of the Census, Ann was about 7 months pregnant with their final son – William Brewer.

30 March 1851 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth Tything				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	40	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	40	Wife	Farmer's wife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
James	10	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
John B.	8	Son		Somerset, Chard
Ann B.	5	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Jane	3	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Eliza	6 mo.	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Robert Modson	19	Servant	Servant	Somerset, Chard
Jerry Pram		Servant	Servant	Somerset, North Curry

The missing daughter, Elizabeth – age 9, had been sent to go to school while living with William’s older sister Mary Jean (Jane) and her husband William Pain on High Street in Taunton, St. Mary Magdalen (Taunton is about seven miles west of Stoke St. Gregory). William Pain is listed in the 1851 Census as a Tallow Chandler (candle maker?) and so is Mary Jean (Jane). (*Writer’s Note: Church records indicate William’s older sister’s name is Mary Jean; subsequent census recordings show her as Mary Jane; the latter is believed to be her correct name.*) Since Uncle William and Aunt Mary Jane were apparently childless, Elizabeth was probably most welcomed.

30 March 1851 – Somerset, Taunton, St. Mary Magdalen				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William Pain	34	Head	Tallow Chandler	Somerset, Stoke, St. Mary
Mary Jane	39	Wife	Tallow Chandler	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Elizabeth House	9	Niece	Scholar	Somerset, Chard

The 1861 English Census shows William and Ann, both age 50, living with six of their children on the Downing’s Farm in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. William is listed as “Farming 180 acres” and employing four men and two boys. William also has four of his children (James – 20, Elizabeth – 19, John – 17, and Ann – 15) helping him on the farm. Eliza – 12 and William – 10 attend school and are described as scholars. All the six children are listed as having been born in Chard, Somerset. Birth certificates for Eliza and William show the family living in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset.

7 April 1861 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	50	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	50	Wife	Housewife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
James	20	Son	Farmer’s son	Somerset, Chard
Elizabeth	19	Dau.	Farmer’s dau.	Somerset, Chard
John	17	Son	Farmer’s son	Somerset, Chard
Ann	15	Dau.	Farmer’s dau.	Somerset, Chard
Eliza	12	Dau.	scholar	Somerset, Chard
William	10	Son	scholar	Somerset, Chard

The missing child, Jane – 14, is visiting her mother’s younger brother Henry’s household. Henry Barrington, age 40, is listed as a farmer of 50 acres employing one man and one boy as helpers. Also in his household are his wife Jane, age 38, his unmarried sister Eliza, age 38, and a servant Ann Meaw, age 16, all born in Stoke St. Gregory. Jane is probably in her element, receiving the attention of two aunts and one uncle without the competition of other children.

7 April 1861 – Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
Henry Barrington	40	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Jane	38	Wife		Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Eliza	38	Sister		Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Jane House		Niece		Somerset, Chard
Ann Mead	16	Servant		Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory

Over the next ten years, three of William and Ann's children (James, Elizabeth, and Ann) left home seeking their own lives and Jane returned home. There is some evidence to suggest that when William purchased Downing's Farm it included Downing's Dairy House, fewer than 100 yards down the road; however, the purchase did not include the cultivated fields, which appear to have been rented. Sometime around 1863, William apparently decided to convert the Downing's Dairy House into a cottage named The Elms. In the back of The Elms, in a niche connecting a brick wall to a stone wall, William apparently had a stone mortared in upon which had been chiseled "1863 – W.H." By 1868, William's daughter Elizabeth and her family were living in The Elms; by 1876, Elizabeth's family had left The Elms and William's son John Barrington had moved his family into the home.

In 1863, Cricket came to Tatworth. The Cricket Club was formed on July 11th at the Country Hotel (later The Olde Poppe Inne); the Rev. Henry Bell Thompson, curate of the newly built Mission Church in Tatworth, was the Club's vice president. William loaned the Club a field upon which to practice and hold their matches; "his kindness later rewarded by the gift of a silver goblet."

On 13 July 1864 William and Ann experienced seeing two of their daughters married – Elizabeth and Ann Barrington – in the Parish Church in Chard. If it was not a double wedding, they were at least sequential; registered as numbers 206 and 207 in the church registry.

Elizabeth House, age 22, married Nicholas James Goffin Harriman, a bachelor office clerk living on Penny Street in Chard. Nicholas signed his full name on the registry but Elizabeth signed as "Elizth House." Witnesses were a Harry House (relationship unknown) who signed his name with an "X" and James Sheppard (relationship unknown). Nicholas's father is listed as William Harriman, a machinist.

Also on 13 July 1864, daughter Ann Barrington, at age 19, married Edward Milton and the couple subsequently set up housekeeping in London. On the marriage registration, Edward identified his profession as "chymist." Both Edward and Ann Barrington signed their own names on the registry. Witnesses were William House, Mary Jane House and John Barrington House; the latter signed his name with an "X." Ann subsequently gave birth to a daughter, Ada Mary Susan, on 12 July 1865; Edward registered the birth on 13

July 1865. On 5 August 1866, Ann died, from cholera. Her daughter was taken to Tatworth to live with her maternal grand-parents, William and Ann House.

The timing of James's departure from the household is believed to have been 1867 when he left England for the United States of America, most probably to join Uncle Charles, one of his father's younger brothers. James settled in Illinois, married, farmed and raised at least three children. By 1880, the families of both James and Uncle Charles were living side-by-side in Kelly, Warren County, Illinois.

The 1871 English Census conducted on 2 April of that year in Chard, Somerset provides our third detailed look at William and his family. William and Ann, both 60, have four children remaining at home and are bringing up a 5 year old granddaughter. They live in the "Downing's Farm House" (located at the intersection of House's Lane and Tatworth Street) in the village of Tatworth in the parish of Chard. Tatworth is also listed as the local Ecclesiastical District. William is listed as a "farmer of 160 acres, employing 3 men and 2 boys." John B., age 27, and William B., age 19, are helping their father work the 160 acres, as are Jane, age 23, and Eliza B., age 21. Ada M.S. Milton, age 5, a granddaughter, attends school (listed as scholar) and was born in London, county of Middlesex.

2 April 1871 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	60	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	60	Wife	Farmer – wife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
John B.	27	Son	Farmer – son	Somerset, Chard
Jane	23	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
Eliza B.	21	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
William B.	19	Son	Farmer - son	Somerset, Chard
Ada M.S. Milton	5	G. Dau.	Scholar	Middlesex, London

The other dwellings adjacent to William's on Tatworth Street in Tatworth are unnamed. The four adjacent heads of households, and their wives, are all listed as "Ag Lab" (Agricultural Labor). A border in one of these neighboring homes is also listed as "Ag Lab" and one 70 year old uncle is listed as a "pauper."

The next ten years are not particularly good for William. Apparently, shortly after the 1871 Census, William limited his farming to 80 acres. The continual departure of the children from the household, with both John and Eliza seeking lives of their own and William Brewer seeking a business occupation, had simply forced an aging William to significantly reduce his farming activities. John Barrington remained in Tatworth after his marriage in August 1871 and may well have been farming the land William had released.

On 31 August, shortly after the 1871 Census was taken, John Barrington House, age 27, married Mary Hannah Clark, age 27, in the Parish Church of Salcombe Regis, Devon. John was listed as a bachelor farmer in Tatworth, Somerset. Mary's father John Clark was listed as a farmer in Salcombe Regis. Both John and Mary signed their own names, as did the witnesses, Mary's sisters – Sarah and Annie.

On 22 November 1877, Eliza Barrington House, age 28, married John Cuff, age 48, a bachelor grocer in Tatworth, Somerset. The ceremony was conducted in the Church of Tatworth and John's father was William Cuff, a lace manufacturer. Both John and Eliza signed their own names; as did the witnesses, Eliza's siblings – Jane, Elsie (*Elizabeth?*), J. (*John?*) and W.B. (*William Brewer*) House and her niece Ada Milton.

But, most importantly of all, William's beloved wife Ann died on 2 July 1880, at age 69, of heart disease and nine months of "dropsy." William Brewer registered his mother's death on 5 July 1880 with William Trump, the Chard Registrar. Ann Barrington House was buried in the Tatworth Churchyard. Ann's legacy, at least in the form of her maiden name Barrington, has been passed down through the generations within various of the House lines. The most recent known recipient of this legacy – Leighton Barrington Lee Brown – born in 2004 and a great (x 5) grandson of Ann's – has the name firmly entrenched in the 21st century.

The 1881 English Census finds William, age 70; his daughter Jane, age 33; son William B., age 29; and granddaughter Ada, age 15, living in the village of Tatworth in the parish of Chard in Somerset. William was probably still living in the Downing's Farm House; however, the census recorder failed to list the names of the dwellings. William, now listed as a widower, is a farmer of 80 acres employing 2 men and a boy. Jane, obviously, helps her father on the farm and is listed as "farmer's daughter." William Brewer has given up farming, except probably to help-out occasionally, and has become a clerk at the local Collar Works in Chard. Ada M.S. Milton has secured a position as a school teacher (not bad for a 15 year old; she was "in charge of the infants"). The village of Tatworth now resides in the Ecclesiastical District of Saint John of the Evangelists.

3 April 1881 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	70	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Jane	33	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
William B.	29	Son	Collar Works	Somerset, Chard
Ada M.S. Milton	15	G. Dau.	School Teacher	Middlesex, London

William Brewer left his father's household and took up residence on Market Street in Chard sometime prior to his marriage in February 1884 and in August 1884 he was reported living in Forton, the little hamlet located about halfway between Tatworth and the town of Chard. On 11 September 1884, William's granddaughter Ada Mary Susan Milton died at the age of 19, hence William was left with only his daughter Jane and

some hired help to work his remaining holdings at Downing's Farm; if, in fact, he was still farming.

By 1885, William, at the age of 74, was simply worn out and had given up farming. He had apparently sold Downing's Farm House, but not The Elms. Sometime, probably early in 1885, William gave his son William Brewer 100 pounds to help him to purchase the George Hotel on Fore Street in Chard and William went to live at the George Hotel for his remaining few months.

On 31 October 1885, William wrote his last Will and Testament. He referred to himself as "William House of Tatworth in the County of Somerset, Retired Farmer." He bequeathed his "cottage and garden situated there (Tatworth) called The Elms" to his son John Barrington who was then occupying the cottage. (*Writer's Note: William, and probably Jane, may also have been living at The Elms for a short time following the sale of Downing's Farm House.*) William also acknowledged in his Will that he had previously given his son William Brewer 100 pounds. His daughter's Jane and Elizabeth (Harriman) were to share equally the proceeds from two two-hundred pound insurance policies; one on William's life and the other on the life of James Body Brewer. Whatever remained of his estate following execution of the foregoing was to be divided equally among the four fore-mentioned children after the payment of his debts. William's son James (in the U.S.A.) and his daughter Eliza (Cuff) were not mentioned in the Will. The gross value of William's personal estate was 330 pounds 10 and the net value was 222 pounds 8/11.

(*Writer's Note: Taking a rough estimate of a pound in 1885 being equal to 100 pounds in 2006, the gross value of William's estate would have been about 33,000 pounds today; or about \$60,000. It is not known if The Elms or William Brewer's 100 pounds were included in the gross value of William's estate; but the latter, at least, almost certainly was not.*

A copy of William's Will may be found in Addenda E – Vital Records, Section 2 – Deaths of the House Family Saga.)

On 12 February 1886, William House, age 75, died at his son William Brewer's home on Fore Street in the town of Chard of "Senile decay and Exhaustion;" his death was certified by J. James Davis M.B.C.S. John Barrington House, who had been in attendance, registered his father's death on 15 May 1886.

William was returned to Tatworth for burial alongside his beloved Ann in the Tatworth Churchyard. In fact, William, Ann and Ada Mary Susan all share the same tombstone.



Our story will continue with the children of William and Ann as the sixth generation.

Sixth Generation

James House

James House was born on 28 February 1841, most probably at the Downing's Farm House in the village of Tatworth parish of Chard, Somerset. He was baptized on 13 March 1841 and his birth registered by his father in the town of Chard on 22 March 1841.

Our first look at James is the 1841 English Census which shows him at the age of 3 months living with his parents in the Downing's Farm House in Tatworth. The 1851 English Census shows James, at age 10, living with his parents and four siblings in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. James is listed as "Farmer's son;" hence he is already helping his father on the 160 acre family farm. It is interesting to note that none of James's younger siblings who are living at home were recorded as going to school, which may mean James did not go to school either.

30 March 1851 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	40	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	40	Wife	Farmer's wife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
James	10	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
Elizabeth	9	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
John	7	Son		Somerset, Chard
Ann	5	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Eliza	2	Dau.		Somerset, Chard

The 1861 English Census shows James, at age 20, living with his parents and five siblings in the Downing's Farm House in the village of Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. James is listed as single and helping his father (farmer's son) on the family's 180 acre farm.

Sometime, probably early in 1867, James – a bachelor – left England for the United States; presumably to join his Uncle Charles, one of his father William's younger brothers who apparently departed England in the 1840's and settled in the state of Illinois. By 1867, James had married a woman named Mary Frankline, who had been born in Illinois and they proceeded to start a family.

The 1870 U.S. Federal Census shows a 28 year old James from England, his 23 year old wife Mary from Illinois and their two children – Edward, age 2, and Bessie, age 2 months

– living on a farm in Kelly, Warren County, Illinois. James was listed as a farmer possessing real estate valued at \$2,000 and personal property at \$800.00. On an adjacent farm resided a Thomas House, age 26, from England that was employed as a farm laborer. Uncle Charles also resided in Kelly and was listed in the census as Charles B., age 55, Justice of the Peace, with real estate valued at \$1,500 and personal property at \$4,000. Living with Charles were his second wife, Louisa, age 51, from England, and his daughter Emeline, age 20, who had been born in Illinois.

Uncle Charles apparently came to the United States in the 1840's, probably in his early 30's. He married a woman named Margaret from the state of Indiana and by the time of the 1850 U.S. Federal Census they had a daughter Emeline six months old, born in Illinois; at the time, Charles's real estate holdings in Warren County were valued at \$600. By the 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Uncle Charles and his family were firmly entrenched in Kelly, Warren County, Illinois. Charles was listed as 41, Margaret 34 and Emeline 11. Charles was farming; his real estate valued at \$2,500 and personal possessions at \$470; 16 year old Andrew Pearson from Sweden was living with the family and helping Charles work the farm. Shortly after the 1860 census, Margaret died and Charles subsequently married Louisa Pine, also English born.

In the 1880 U.S. Federal Census, James and his family were still in Kelly, Illinois with a second son Frank, age 8. Next door to James was Charles House, a 68 year old retired farmer, and his wife Louisa, age 61; both were from England. Unfortunately the 1890 U.S. Census has been destroyed.

In the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, there were 18 members of the House clan living in Warren County, Illinois; all but one lived in Kelly and were born either in the United Kingdom or Illinois. Thomas House, now a widower, accounts for 11 members of the House Clan with four sons and six daughters; Thomas was listed as having immigrated to the United States in 1867; hence, he probably came over with James. A Richard House, born in England, with an Irish wife he married after entering the United States in 1864, accounts for five of the Clan with two sons and a niece in his household. Charles, his wife Louisa and James have apparently died, probably in Kelly. James's wife Mary, born in Illinois but whose parents were English, appears to be living with or next door to an English couple, James and Mary Jeans – in their 60's.

James's children have married and left home. The 1900 U.S. Census shows Edward, his wife Alice and their four children – three daughters and one son – are living in Rio, Knox County, Illinois; Frank had apparently married a woman named Luella in 1897 and was farming in Du Quoin, Perry County, Illinois; Bessie had married, but has not been located in the census. James was reported as having a second daughter named Mary, but no census had been found which records her existence.

In January 1905, Frank, his wife and five children (4 boys and one girl) left Illinois for White City, Morris County, Kansas for health reasons. Sometime in 1906, prior to October, John (Jack) William House (the oldest son of James' younger brother John Barrington) wrote James' widow Mary in Shanghai City, Illinois. Frank responded with

a letter to Jack (misidentified as James) in Greenville Texas on 15 October 1906. Frank told Jack his family had often wondered where he was and how he was doing. Frank said he had four boys and one girl; he was doing well farming; land prices had doubled since he arrived in Kansas. Both Frank's siblings and their families lived near Galesburg, Illinois; his mother's health was poor; she spent summers in Shanghai City and winters with his sister Bessie, who had two boys.

Elizabeth House

Elizabeth House was born on 7 March 1842 on her parents' farm in the village of Tatworth in the parish of Chard, Somerset. She was baptized on 6 April 1842 and her birth was registered by her mother in the town of Chard on 11 April 1842.

Our first good look at Elizabeth is the 1851 English Census. She is not with her family in the Downing's Farm House in Tatworth, but is visiting her father's older sister Mary Jane and her husband William Pain. How long Elizabeth stayed with her Uncle William and Aunt Mary Jane in Taunton, Somerset is not known, but it appears she was sent there to get some schooling. Her siblings at home do not appear to be attending school. The Census identifies Mary Jane's age as 39 vice the correct 41. Elizabeth was probably most welcomed as her Aunt and Uncle were apparently childless. From Elizabeth's perspective, it must have been pure joy; school, no competition from siblings, and two caring adults dotting over her.

30 March 1851 – Somerset, Taunton, St. Mary Magdalene				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William Pain	34	Head	Tallow Chandler	Somerset, Stoke, St. Mary
Mary Jane	39	Wife	Tallow Chandler	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Elizabeth House	9	Niece	Scholar	Somerset, Chard

The 1861 English Census shows Elizabeth, at age 19, living with her parents and five siblings on Downing's Farm in the village of Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. Elizabeth is listed as single and helping her father (farmer's daughter) on the family's 180 acre farm.

The next couple of years must have been most interesting around the Downing's Farm House as both of the older House daughters – Elizabeth and Ann – had suitors becoming serious. On 13 July 1864, the Parish Church in Chard was the marriage site for the two House daughters. Elizabeth, at age 22, married Nicholas James Goffin Harriman, a bachelor office clerk living on Penny Street in Chard. Nicholas's father was William Harriman, a machinist. Nicholas signed his full name, but Elizabeth's signature was "Elizth House." Witnesses were Harry House (*relationship unknown*) who signed with an "X" and James Sheppard (*relationship unknown*).

After the wedding, Nicholas and Elizabeth relocated to Tiverton, Devon where Nicholas's family was located. While in Tiverton, their first child, son Frank W., was born in 1865. The family left shortly after Frank's birth for Preston (*Paedon?*), Lancashire where their second child, daughter Edith, was born in 1866. After a short time, Nicholas and Elizabeth decided to return to Tatworth where Nicholas opened a general merchandise store. In 1868, their second daughter – Anna H., was born in Tatworth, followed by Mabel in 1869 and their second son, Nicholas C., in 1870.

The 1871 English Census finds Nicholas and Elizabeth with four of their children (Edith – 5, Anna H. – 3, Mabel – 2, and Nicholas C. – 6 months) living in a cottage named The Elms in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. Nicholas is listed as a general merchant born in Tiverton, Devon. Also living with their family is Thirza Beer, age 12, a servant girl born in Winsham, Somerset who is helping Elizabeth with the youngsters.

2 April 1871 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
Nicholas Harriman	34	Head	merchant	Devon, Tiverton
Elizabeth	29	Wife		Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Edith	5	Dau.		Lancashire, Preston
Anna H.	3	Dau.		Somerset, Chard, Tatworth
Mabel	2	Dau.		Somerset, Chard, Tatworth
Nicholas C.	6/12	Son		Somerset, Chard, Tatworth
Thirza Beer	12	servant	servant	Somerset, Winsham

The missing son, Frank W. – age 6, is attending school while visiting his paternal grandmother Hannah, age 65, and an unmarried aunt Caroline, age 33, all living on Backway Street in the Lowman section of Tiverton, Devon. Hannah Harriman is listed as a “green grocer” and Caroline as a “lace hand.”

2 April 1871 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
Hannah Harriman	65	Head	Green grocer	Devon, Tiverton
Caroline	33	Dau.	Lace Hand	Devon, Tiverton
Frank W.	6	g-son		Devon, Tiverton.

A son, Henry H., was born to Nicholas and Elizabeth in 1875 while they were living in South Chard. Sometime prior to Henry's birth, they had left The Elms and Elizabeth's younger brother, John Barrington, moved his family into the cottage. Nicholas and Elizabeth subsequently moved their family to Axminster, Thorncombe, Dorset (Dorset is south-southeast of Somerset, between Somerset and the English Channel). Nicholas appears to have changed occupations along with the move, leaving the trade of a general

merchant for that of an insurance agent. Once in Dorset, they had three more children (bringing their total to nine) – William in 1876, Edgar in 1878 / 9 and Caroline in 1880.

The 1881 English Census finds Nicholas and Elizabeth living in “The Abbey Villa,” Axminster, Thorncome, Dorset with their nine children. Nicholas is now both a merchant agent and an insurance agent; Frank W. is a “pupil teacher” in boarding school; Edith is apparently helping her mother at home; Anna H., Mabel, Nicholas C., Henry H. and William are attending school; and Edgar and Caroline are still a handful.

3 April 1881 – Dorset, Thorncome, Axminster				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
N. J. G. Harriman	43	Head	Insurance Agent	Devon, Tiverton
Elizabeth	39	Wife		Somerset, Tatworth
Frank W.	16	Son	Pupil teacher	Devon, Tiverton
Edith	15	Dau.		Lancashire, Preston
Anna H.	13	Dau.	Scholar	Somerset, Tatworth
Mabel	11	Dau.	Scholar	Somerset, Tatworth
Nicholas C.	10	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Tatworth
Henry H.	7	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Tatworth
William	5	Son	Scholar	Dorset, Thorncome
Edgar	2	Son		Dorset, Thorncome
Caroline	10/12	Dau.		Dorset, Thorncome

Over the next 10 years, the Harriman household undergoes a good deal of change. Twin daughters – Agnes and Agatha – were born in 1883, bringing the total of known children to 11. Frank W., Edith, Anna H. and Mabel leave the family household, presumably to start lives of their own. Sometime after 1883, Nicholas and Elizabeth relocate the family back to Chard in Somerset and Nicholas again changes occupations to become an accountant. Following their move to Chard, the Harrimans increase their interface with the family of Elizabeth’s younger brother John Barrington House. John Barrington’s family correspondence reflects knowledge of Aunt Elizabeth, or more frequently Aunt Lizzie, as well as the children, particularly Charlie (Nicholas C.), William, Annie (Anna), and Edie (Edith). Following the death of her father on 12 February 1886, Elizabeth inherited 100 pounds from her father’s insurance policy with The London Liverpool Company. It is not known when she received the second 100 pounds from the policy on James Body Brewer with the Globe Insurance Company; however, both sums were for her use only and not for the use of her husband.

According to Jack Harriman of Chard (March 2006), one of Nicholas James’s grandsons, Nicholas James used to “trail the area in a horse and trap in search of young ladies and that the whole family was constantly moving house because he couldn’t pay the rent.” Jack Harriman also credits Nicholas James with 13 legitimate children – suggesting that there were other children who were illegitimate. (*Writer’s Note: Only 11 of the 13 children have been identified in the SAGA. However, a 12th child, a daughter Dorothy*

(born about 1893, appears to be visiting her aunt Caroline Harriman at the time of the 1901 English Census.)

The 1891 English Census finds Nicholas and Elizabeth with six of their children – Nicholas C., Henry H., William, Edgar, Agnes and Agatha – in Elysian House on Combe Street in Chard, Somerset. Nicholas is listed as an accountant; Nicholas C. is a solicitor's clerk; Henry H. is a brewer's clerk; William is an inweller's apprentice; Edgar is a buffeter's apprentice; and both Agnes and Agatha attend school. Also living with the family is one of Elizabeth's cousins – Emily House, age 30, single, living on her own means. Emily is one of the daughters of William House's (Elizabeth's father) younger brother Henry and his wife Margaret. Missing from the Harriman household is Caroline, age 10, who is almost certainly attending school while off visiting a relative.

5 April 1891 – Somerset Chard				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
Nicholas J. G. Harriman	54	Head	Accountant	Devon, Tiverton
Elizabeth	48	Wife		Somerset, Chard
Nicholas C.	20	Son	Solicitor's Clerk	Somerset, Chard
Henry H.	17	Son	Brewer's Clerk	Somerset, Chard
William	15	Son	Inweller's Apprent.	Dorset, Thorncombe
Edgar	13	Son	Buffeter's Apprent.	Dorset, Thorncombe
Agnes	8	Dau.	Scholar	Dorset, Thorncombe
Agatha	8	Dau.	Scholar	Dorset, Thorncombe
Emily House	30	Cousin	Own Account	Somerset, Taunton
Annie L. Smith	14	Servant	General Servant	Devon, Kingston

Little is known of the lives of Nicholas and Elizabeth or their children over the next decade. They certainly experienced the ebb and flow of children through their homestead as they experienced the transformation from childhood to self sufficient adults. What is known has been largely derived from correspondence to Jack (John William) House following his departure from England to the United States in March of 1894. Elizabeth's family (Harriman) in Chard maintained fairly close contact with John Barrington's family as the latter moved from Tatworth to Camel Hill to Queen Camel to Chard and finally to Leister Hill in Ilminster before the end of the decade. By 1893, Elizabeth and Nicholas were apparently back in Tiverton, Devon. In the late spring of 1894, Charlie (Nicholas C.) and Annie (Anna) were sick enough to require a doctor's care; both apparently survived the illness. In the summer of 1894, Charlie got Beatrice Grabham pregnant but would not marry her. He subsequently wrote Jack about joining him in the United States. In the end Charlie went to Bristol where he became successful in business. His mother, Elizabeth (Aunt Lizzie) was most distraught over the whole matter. Beatrice Grabham subsequently married a man named Pavitt and the illegitimate child, a son, was named Charles Ezra Harriman Grabham-Pavitt when born on 31 May 1894.

Edie (Edith) had fallen in love with Tom Hecks but refused to marry him until he was well settled in a business. Edie and Tom finally married in 1895 and were managing a hotel in Street. Before the end of 1895, Henry had secured a job in Oxford. Mabel appears to be bobbing among her relations and siblings. She was living with her mother's (Elizabeth) sister Jane's family at the end of 1895 but was expected to join her sister Edie's family in Street shortly. In 1896, Bryan House (John Barrington's son) got a job for his cousin Will (William) Harrison at the Lord Napier (Bar) in London. By May 1897, Will had quit his job in London and was home doing nothing; however, by October 1897, he had taken off to Cape Town, South Africa. Lizzie and some of the children, particularly Edie and John, frequently stopped by John Barrington's home for tea.

As the children continue to leave home, Nicholas and Elizabeth apparently moved to a smaller home in Chard. Nicholas continued his accountant business but also started selling seeds to the local farmers.

The 1901 English Census shows Nicholas, age 64, and Elizabeth, age 57, living with four of their eleven grown children in Ivory Cottage in Chard, Somerset. Nicholas is listed as working on his own account as an "accountant and seedman." The four children currently at home are: Anna, age 29, a school board assistant teacher; Edgar, age 22, a tailor; Caroline, age 19, working as a draper apprentice; and Agatha, one of the twins who has no occupation and is apparently helping her mother with the house work.

31 March 1901 – Somerset, Chard				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
Nicholas Harriman	64	Head	Accountant, seedman	Devon, Tiverton
Elizabeth	57	Wife		Somerset, Chard
Anna	29	Dau.	School board, asst. teach.	Somerset, Chard
Edgar	22	Son	Tailor	Dorset, Thorncombe
Caroline	19	Dau.	Draper apprentice	Dorset, Thorncombe
Agatha	18	Dau.	No occupation	Dorset, Thorncombe

The 1901 Census is our last good look at the Harriman family. Charley, Henry and Frank made it home for a few days during Christmas week 1901. Mabel married "very well" in January 1902, and Willie was reported to be doing well in South Africa in the spring of 1902. By December 1902, Mabel was reported "dangerously ill." During Christmas 1905, Charley and his wife, Frank and Edie made it home for the holidays; Elizabeth, looking "quite the old woman," visited John Barrington's widow Mary Hannah. Charley (Nicholas Charles) had married Rosina Joy on 28 August 1905; the marriage was childless and Rosina died in 1936; Charley remarried and had four children, one daughter and three sons; the names of two of the sons were reported to be Nicholas and Michael. In the early summer of 1908, Elizabeth received 200 pounds from the estate of her sister Eliza House Cuff.

According to Jack Harriman of Chard, Edie and Tom Hecks subsequently owned the Street Arms pub in Street and opened the first cinema in Street. Many of the daughters of Nicholas James either ended up near Edie in Street or in the Glastonbury area; two remained spinsters and one marred a farmer named Mapstone; one son left England and went to live in Peru.

On 4 December 1912, Elizabeth House Harriman, at age 70, died. She was buried in Chard, all her surviving children were there, and there were a “great number of wreaths and crosses;” moreover, the flowers were beautiful. Four of her nephews were pall-bearers, two of John Barrington’s sons and two of William Brewer’s sons.

Nicholas James died about 1928, at the age of 91, while living with two of his spinster daughters in a cottage in the Furnham section of the town of Chard; he was subsequently buried in the Chard Cemetery on Combe Street, probably alongside Elizabeth.

In 2006, a grandson of Charles Ezra Harriman Grabham-Pavitt –Robin Pavitt of Templecombe, Somerset – reconnected with descendants of John Barrington House.

Ann Barrington House

Ann Barrington House was born 8 June 1845 probably on her parents' farm in the village of Tatworth in the parish of Chard, Somerset. Ann's birth was registered by her father in the town of Chard on 27 June 1845.

The 1851 English Census identifies a 5 year old Ann B. living with her parents and four of her five siblings on a 160 acre farm in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. She and her older siblings at home do not appear to be attending school; only her older sister Elizabeth, who was staying with an Aunt and Uncle in Taunton, was attending school.

The 1861 English Census shows Ann, at age 15, living with her parents and five siblings on Downing's Farm in the village of Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. Ann is listed as single and helping her father (farmer's daughter) on the family's 180 acre farm.

Ann's name is spelled without a final "e" on her birth certificate; however, both her marriage and death certificates show her name as Anne. On 13 July 1864, Anne Barrington married Edward Milton at the Parish Church, Chard, Somerset. The marriage certificate identifies Anne as 19, a spinster, residing in Tatworth. Her father William House is listed as Yeoman. Edward Milton is listed as 21, a bachelor, profession "chymist," living in Mill Bath, Middlesex (London area). His father, William Milton, is a grocer. The ceremony was conducted by Henry Bell Thompson, Curater. Witnesses to the ceremony were Anne's father – William House (it is possible that this was her brother William) and two siblings – John Barrington House and Mary Jane House. Where William and Mary Jane were able to sign their names, John Barrington only made his mark – an X. A second point of interest, this marriage certificate is the only document found to date (January 2006) which shows Jane House having the first name of Mary. (*Writer's Note: It may be possible that this Mary Jane is Anne's father's older sister Mary Jean/Jane, but doubtful.*)

Following the ceremony, Edward and Anne Barrington set up housekeeping in London at 14 Ingleheim Terrace, Poplar, Middlesex. Their first child, a daughter – Ada Mary Susan, was born 12 July 1865. On 5 August 1866, Ann died of cholera (24 hours certified) in her home at 6 Salmon Place, Limehouse. Her daughter, Ada, was taken to Tatworth to live with her maternal grandparents, William and Ann House.

Ada grew up at Downing's Farm in Tatworth, the home of her grandparents. She was an excellent scholar and at the age of 15 she was recorded as a school teacher, where she was "in charge of infants." She died on 11 September 1884, at the age of 19 and was buried alongside her grandmother Ann Barrington in the Tatworth Churchyard; subsequently, she and her grandparents would all share the same headstone. She died of "uraemia, some weeks; apoplexy, 12 hours." Her uncle William Brewer House registered her death on 13 September with the Chard Registrar. The subsequent life of Edward Milton is unknown.

Jane House

Jane House was born 7 May 1847 on her parents' farm in the village of Tatworth in the parish of Chard, Somerset. Her mother registered the birth in the town of Chard on 8 June 1847. On the birth certificate, her name was listed simply as Jane; however, when she witnessed her sister Anne's marriage in 1864, she signed her name as Mary Jane.

Jane is listed as a 3 year old living with her family in the 1851 English Census but is not listed with her parents and siblings at the Downing's Farm House in Tatworth in the 1861 English Census. Instead she has gone to spend some time with her mother's brother Henry Barrington, age 40; his wife Jane, age 38; his sister Elina, age 38; and Ann Mead , a 16 year old general servant. Henry appears to be living in the long-time Barrington family home on Lane End in Stoke St. Gregory, Somerset. Uncle Henry employs one man and one boy in helping him work a 50 acre farm. Aunt Jane and Aunt Elina, as well as Jane, appear to be helping with the farm work. All in the household, except Jane, were born in Stoke St. Gregory. Jane's age is incorrectly recorded in the Census; she is 13.

7 April 1861 - Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
Henry Barrington	40	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Jane	38	Wife	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Elina	38	Sister	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Jane House	12	Niece	Farmer	Somerset, Chard
Ann Mead	16	Servant	General Servant	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory

In the 1871 English Census, Jane is listed living with her parents, three siblings and niece Ada M.S. Milton at the Downing's Farm House in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. In the census she is listed as 23 years of age and as a "farmer's daughter," obviously helping her father on the family's 160 acre farm.

2 April 1871 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	60	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	60	Wife	Farmer – wife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
John B.	27	Son	Farmer – son	Somerset, Chard
Jane	23	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
Eliza B.	21	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
William B.	19	Son	Farmer - son	Somerset, Chard
Ada M.S. Milton	5	G. Dau.	Scholar	Middlesex, London

In the 1881 English Census, Jane is living with her father (her mother has died), her younger brother William Brewer, and her niece Ada M.S. Milton in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. In the census she is listed as 33 years of age and a “farmer’s daughter.” She is helping her 70 year old father and two hired men and a boy operate the family’s 80 acre farm; or probably more accurate, she is running the farm.

3 April 1881 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	70	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Jane	33	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
William B.	29	Son	Collar Works	Somerset, Chard
Ada M.S. Milton	15	G. Dau.	School Teacher	Middlesex, London

The events surrounding Jane’s life during the 1880’s are simply unknown. She probably continued to help her father run Downing’s Farm for the first few years. However, sometime before 1885 her father William had to stop farming and gave up Downing’s Farm; simultaneously, or shortly thereafter, Jane’s brother William Brewer apparently purchased the George Hotel on Fore Street in Chard. Jane, most probably, accompanied her father to the George Hotel, possibly by way of The Elms, and helped to nurse him for his remaining few months. On 12 February 1886, her father William died on Fore Street in Chard. Jane’s father bequeathed her half interest in two two-hundred pound insurance policies. Jane possibly stayed on at the George Hotel for a while before striking out on her own.

Jane resurfaces in the 1891 English Census as a visitor in Charles and Sophia Lockyer’s household, the Town Farm in North Curry, Somerset. Charles and Sophia, both age 76, were born in Stoke St. Gregory; hence, they have probably been life long friends of Jane’s family. North Curry is fewer than two miles southwest of Stoke St. Gregory. Also living in the household is Elisabeth Verrier, a single 21 year old servant who was born in North Curry.

5 April 1891 – Somerset, North Curry				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
Charles Lockyer	76	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Sophia	76	Wife		Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Jane House	43	Visitor		Somerset, Chard
Elisabeth Verrier	21	Servant		Somerset, North Curry

Jane, now 43, has apparently given up farm work at long last, but her whereabouts between April 1891 and September 1893 are unknown. However, on 25 September 1893, Jane House, age 46, married James Albert White, age 41, a widower, in Bedminster, Bristol. James’s occupation is that of “general factory” and he was born in

Broadway, Somerset. James's first wife Lucy had died on 15 June 1892 in Bedminster, Bristol leaving James with five children 12 and below. Jane was taking on a handful, but she certainly saw it as better than taking on another farm.

We learn a little of James's family from the 1891 English Census when he and Lucy were living with their children at 29 Cornation Road, Bedminster, Bristol. They had four daughters – Mabel, age 11; Gertrude, age 8; Elsie, age 5; Lucy, age 2; and one son – Arthur, age 9. Also in their household were two nephews, Samuel and Ira Davis, ages 17 and 14, respectively, and Rose Clara, age 15, a domestic servant from Bristol.

(Writer's Note: Bristol is both a city and a parish. The parish of Bristol extends into two counties – Somerset and Gloucestershire.)

5 April 1891 – Somerset, Bristol, Bedminster				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
James White	39	Head	General Factory	Somerset, Broadway
Lucy	39	Wife		Devon, Farley
Mabel	11	Dau.		Bristol
Arthur	9	Son		Bristol
Gertrude	8	Dau.		Bristol
Elsie	5	Dau.		Bristol
Lucy	2	Dau.		Bristol
Samuel Davis	17	Nephew	Factory Assistant	Somerset, Broadway
Ira Davis	14	Nephew		Somerset, Broadway
Rose Clara	15	Servant	Domestic Servant	Bristol

A few years after Jane and James married, James's brother died leaving James 15,000 and a successful toy business. Jane was "set for life." John Barrington's son Bryan appears to be a favorite of the White's and occasionally visited them on his holidays. On Bryan's visit in September 1896, he got a tour of Uncle Jim White's warehouse and was most impressed with the quantity and diversity of the toys – from a ¼ size doll to a wild beast show made of rubber. Jane and James also took Bryan over to Clifton to cross the new suspension bridge – "a marvelous piece of work."

Within John Barrington House's family, Jane was called Aunt Jane or Aunt Jennie (Jeannie). The use of "Aunt Jane" appears to be associated with periods of disapproval; e.g. "Aunt Jane is fat as ever" or "Aunt Jane is as fat as a pig and still drinks like a fish." On the other hand, "Aunt Jennie" is associated with periods of approval – starting with her financial support and concern during John Barrington's illness in December 1899. Following this illness, John Barrington's wife, Mary Hannah, instructed her oldest son, Jack, in the United States to send a letter immediately to Aunt Jennie expressing his deep appreciation for her gracious help to his parents. Bryan continued his personal association with his Aunt and Uncle, spending "a week or two with Aunt Jennie" in September of 1900.

The 1901 English Census gives us our last real good look at Jane and her family. James, age 49, and Jane, age 50 – actually 53, almost 54 – are living at 3 Broadway Road, Bristol, Gloucestershire with all five of James's children from his first marriage. James is listed as a “toy dealer” and both Mable, age 21, and Cecil (previously identified as Arthur), age 19, are helping him in the business. Gertrude, age 18; Ellen (previously Elsie), age 17; and Lucy, age 12 appear to be living at home with no specific occupation. Also living in the household is Emma Dare, a 32 year old domestic servant born in North Curry.

31 March 1901 – Gloucestershire, Bristol				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
James White	49	Head	Toy Dealer	Somerset, Broadway
Jane	50	Wife		Somerset, Tatworth
Mabel	21	Dau.	Toy Dealer Asst.	Bristol
Cecil	19	Son	Toy Dealer Asst.	Bristol
Gertrude	18	Dau.		Bristol
Ellen	17	Dau.		Bristol
Lucy	12	Dau.		Bristol
Emma Dare	32	Servant	Domestic Servant	North Curry

When John Barrington, Jane's brother, became terminally ill with cancer and was sent to a hospital in Bristol in late October 1902, Jane and James assumed responsibility for his care both financially and otherwise. John Barrington died on 12 December 1902 and Jane and James paid all the funeral expenses. The gratitude of John Barrington's family was perhaps best expressed by his daughter Ethel when she wrote to her brother Jack:

Our truest friend has been Uncle Jim White; he paid all expenses at Bristol which must have been a big sum for he had everything of the best. The coffin was really beautiful, polished inlaid oak with brass fittings lined with white satin studded with silver buttons.

After John Barrington's death, Jane (Aunt Jennie) and James (Uncle Jim White) could do no wrong in the eyes of John Barrington's family. They frequently visited Mary Hannah and her family in Ilminster and always asked if she had sufficient funds to pay her rent. In fact, James told Mary Hannah he would provide any shortfalls she incurred in living expenses; hence she should not worry about money. Mary Hannah was most appreciative of Jane and James's help and made certain a birthday card was always sent to Jane on her birthday; the day after Mary Hannah's. Jane made a habit of always visiting Mary Hannah during the days immediately following New Year's Day. During the Christmas holidays in 1908, Jane and James made a 10 day visit to Mary Hannah while their own servants were off on holiday.

Unfortunately, there is – as yet – no knowledge of the subsequent lives of Jane, James and the children.

Eliza Barrington House

Eliza Barrington was born 14 July 1849 in Tatworth in the parish of Chard, Somerset. Her father registered her birth on 18 August 1849.

Our first good look at Eliza is in the 1851 English Census. At the age of 21 months (her age is misidentified as 6 months in the Census), she is the youngest child of the family. She, her older siblings and parents are living in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. Her oldest brother, James, is helping her father William work the family's 160 acre farm.

30 March 1851 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth, Tything				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	40	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	40	Wife	Farmer's wife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
James	10	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
John B.	8	Son		Somerset, Chard
Ann B.	5	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Jane	3	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Eliza	6 mo.	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Robert Modson	19	Servant	Servant	Somerset, Chard
Jerry Pram		Servant	Servant	Somerset, North Curry

Our second look at Eliza with her family is the 1861 English Census where she is living with her parents and five siblings on the Downing's Farm in Tatworth. In the census, she is listed as a 12 year old scholar; hence still attending school. Since her older sister Jane, age 14, is off helping Uncle Henry Barrington with his farm and Ann, at 15, is already working on the family farm, schooling in the farming communities of England at this time may have only lasted to age 12.

7 April 1861 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	50	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	50	Wife	Housewife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
James	20	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
Elizabeth	19	Dau.	Farmer's dau.	Somerset, Chard
John	17	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
Ann	15	Dau.	Farmer's dau.	Somerset, Chard
Eliza	12	Dau.	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
William	10	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Chard

She is still living with her parents (William and Ann), three siblings, and a niece in 1871 at the Downing's Farm House in Tatworth at age 21. Listed as a "farmer's daughter" in the census, she was obviously helping work the 160 acre farm.

Eliza caught the eye of John Cuff, a local grocer, 21 years her senior. Given the option of spending her life in the relative luxury of a grocer's wife versus that of a farmer's daughter (or wife), Eliza chose the grocer.

On 22 November 1877, Eliza Barrington House, a spinster of "full age," married John Cuff, a bachelor of "full age," in the Church of Tatworth, parish of Chard, county of Somerset. John was listed as a grocer living in Tatworth; his father, William Cuff, was a lace manufacturer. The ceremony was conducted by Henry Bell Thompson, Vicar according to the procedural process of "Banns."

(Writer's Note: The process of Banns is part of the marriage ceremony in the Church of England. It may extend over several months and consists of at least three announcements (publishings) of intent to marry made before the assembled church congregation during a Sunday service. Presumably the repeated announcements provide the couple ample opportunity to think about their decision and anyone in the congregation an opportunity to raise objections. Perhaps modern day (2005) Protestant marriage ceremonies incorporate an element of the Banns process when anyone in the assembly is given an opportunity to object "or forever hold their peace.")

Both John and Eliza signed their own names. In attendance for the bride and serving as witnesses were Jane House, Elsie House, J. House, W.B. House, and Ada Milton.

We learn a little about John Cuff from the 1871 Census. At that time, John was unmarried at age 43 and living in South Chard with a 14 year old male, Arthur Wellington, who had been born in London and was described as John's assistant. Both John and Arthur are employed as mechanical assistants. Next door to John is a 77 year old, unmarried John Cuff who is a grocer and general dealer. This older John is living with his 70 year old widowed sister-in-law (probably the younger John's mother). She identifies herself as the widow of a ball manufacturer. Probably sometime between 1871

and 1881, the older John and his sister-in-law die and the grocery store is left to the younger John.

The 1881 English Census shows John and Eliza B. Cuff living in the village of South Chard (about 2 miles south of Tatworth). John is a “grocer employing one boy”, age 53, and listed as having been born in Chard, Somerset. Eliza is 32. They have no children; however, Emily Boalch, age 12, born in Taunton, Somerset, lives with them as a domestic servant.

3 April 1881 – Somerset, Chard, South Chard				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
John Cuff	53	Head	Grocer employing 1 boy	Somerset, Chard
Eliza B.	32	Wife		Somerset, Chard
Emily Boalch	12	Servant	Servant Domestic	Somerset, Taunton

The exact location of John’s store and John and Eliza B.’s home is not known for certain. Both appear to move back and forth between Tatworth and South Chard. In later years the store is mentioned only in Tatworth, while South Chard appears to be their home. What is certain is that they maintained close contact with the family of Eliza B.’s brother John Barrington while his family lived in Tatworth. Evidently John’s store was in close proximity to the local school; John Barrington’s children, particularly his sons, were drawn to Uncle John’s store like a magnet. John Barrington’s son Bryan even worked at the store for a period of time. To the boys, Uncle John’s store sold everything needed in life, from material for slingshots to tasty treats. Every ha-pence earned by the boys was spent at the store and like “bees around honey” they hovered around the store in the hopes that Uncle John (or Bryan) would distribute some free treats. The favorite treat of all were Garibaldys, a biscuit full of currants, which as the containing barrel got low, exposed broken pieces which could not be sold. It is left to the reader to decide whether John benefited sufficiently from the boys’ frequent, but minimal, purchases to offset the problems which arose from having a horde of nephews under foot so often.

Apparently sometime in 1877, Eliza Barrington began having pains in her stomach which eventually forced her to bed for extended periods of time. Over the years, the frequency of the pain increased, as did her days spent in bed. By the 1890’s she was essentially bed ridden and could not even get about her own house. During her extended periods in bed, John Barrington’s younger children were often sent over to cheer her up. The younger boys in particular remembered the anguish associated with such visits. Their trips would start with a detour to a favorite milestone to make offerings in hopes of finding Aunt Eliza’s housekeeper in a good mood. From the boys’ perspective, no one got to see Aunt Eliza unless her dictatorial housekeeper agreed. The boys also came to believe that Aunt Eliza had eyes in the back of her head as she was very quick to advise them if the berries on her bushes were yet ripe enough to eat. Aunt Eliza also frequently had coins under her pillow which served as encouragement for future visits and meetings with the housekeeper.

The 1891 English Census finds them still in South Chard. John, still a grocer, is now 63 and Eliza B. is 41. They have a new domestic servant, Kate Sandiford, age 19, from Ilminster, Somerset.

5 April 1891 – Somerset, Chard, South Chard				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
John Cuff	63	Head	Grocer	Somerset, Perry Street
Eliza B.	41	Wife		Somerset, Chard
Kate Sandiford	19	Servant	General Servant	Somerset, Ilminster

In 1892, Eliza Barrington's brother John Barrington moved his family a good distance northeast of Chard to Camel Hill; hence our knowledge of John and Eliza Cuff's lives become more fragmented. In early March 1894, John Barrington had a business spat with his oldest son Jack and his son departed for the United States. With his oldest son gone, John Barrington's employer fired him and terminated the lease on his home. This time John Barrington didn't find work quickly, so he moved his family a couple of miles south to Queen Camel, and started picking up odd jobs.

In May 1894, John Cuff offered financial help to send John Barrington and his family to California in the United States. John Cuff's motivation in making the offer is not known. However, Eliza Barrington was simultaneously sending 7/6 (seven shillings, six pence) a month to John Barrington to help cover expenses. So John Cuff's motivation may have been to replace a constant financial drain which appeared to have no end with a sizeable, but single financial outlay. John Barrington's wife Mary Hannah took the offer at face value, but declined feeling her health might not stand up to the trip.

At some earlier time, Eliza Barrington had been diagnosed with a growing tumor. In August 1894, John sustained a serious accident, type and circumstances unknown, but probably incurred while working the small farm he maintained when not at the store. By September, Eliza Barrington was feeling better and was even able to get out of bed and go about the house. Her doctor thought John's accident scared her and subsequently the tumor went into partial remission. By October 1894, Eliza Barrington was reported ill again and in December 1894, Mary Hannah wrote Jack that "Aunt Eliza still in bed, poor old soul."

Eliza Barrington apparently continued financial support to her brother's family as John Barrington continued to seek steady employment. In March 1895, Mary Hannah encouraged her son Jack to write Aunt Cuff, who is still bed ridden, to express his appreciation for her help to his family. In July 1895, Eliza took a turn for the worse and her doctor advised her that her life depended on her staying in bed and quiet. By October 1895, Eliza was feeling a little better and was able to "get about from room to room."

Eliza got word that her nephew Jack House in the United States was considering marriage and she immediately weighed into his decision with a letter. Eliza told Jack in no uncertain terms that he, at 23, was too young to get married. Furthermore, his parents wanted to see him again and he should write to them more often as they watched the post (mail) each day for letters from him. However, if he was bent on getting married, he was to make certain he picked a wife that was rich. She told him that his Uncle John continued to work their farm as well as the store. (*Writer's Note: John Cuff has done well in business and even with Eliza's doctor bills, has been able to accumulate a moderate amount of wealth. Hence, Eliza may be encouraging Jack to work hard and save his money and used John Cuff as an example. John apparently has sufficient funds that he doesn't need to work.*) Eliza apparently gave Jack an update on her condition when she told him the doctor visited her once a week; about 50 times already in 1896; and told her she would have a good long life.

By May 1897, Eliza was feeling much better; could go up and down stairs; and was ready "to start a new life." She was redoing the house and replaced all their major furnishings. John Cuff was, however – according to Mary Hannah, "getting to be an old man, fails very much." By December 1897, John and Eliza were driving about in their carriage most days; which they continued to do well into the spring of 1898, even though John had been feeling a little ill for the better part of a year.

On 28 June 1898, John Cuff, at age 69, died quietly and peacefully while working his farm on a Sunday. The highly opinionated tongue wagers in Tatworth and South Chard had a field day. "Well, he deserves it – working his field on a Sunday. He should have been home taking care of his sick wife – Working his fields, with all the money he has, what did he expect?" John Cuff was subsequently buried in the Tatworth Church Yard.

Eliza, who had had a relapse and was again confined to her bed, looked to her brother John Barrington House for advise in helping her settle her husband's estate. John Barrington advised Eliza to put the ample funds John had left her in the hands of a lawyer and to sell the farm lands and equipment to reduce her worries. So it was done and Eliza bore well the trying time.

In July 1899, Eliza went to visit John Barrington's family in Ilminster (north of Chard) and brought along several of their mutual friends from North Curry (just southwest of Stoke St. Gregory).

Over the next four to five years, Eliza appears to have gone back and forth between periods of being bed ridden and those of moderate mobility. In December 1901, John Barrington and his wife went to visit Eliza in South Chard. They found John Cuff's old shop in Tatworth much the same. Eliza was reported keeping "her house quite smart" and "keeps wonderfully well." Unfortunately the distance between Ilminster and South Chard did not facilitate frequent visits by John Barrington's family.

By April 1902, Eliza was feeling somewhat better and in August received Elsie, John Barrington's youngest daughter, for a few days' visit. In early December 1902, Eliza

suffered another bad attack and was in no condition to attend John Barrington's funeral in Ilminster later in the month.

In May 1904, Mary Hannah visited Eliza in South Chard and reported her looking very well after such a long illness. In fact Eliza "looks ten years younger" and she is a "most remarkable human – she lays in bed all day long." However, Eliza's tumor continued to grow and made her "look like a big person." Fortunately, Eliza's finances remained sound and she was able to meet her bills without spending half her income.

In July 1905, on a visit to see Eliza, Mary Hannah was appalled at the immense size of Eliza's tumor. Evidently the doctor told Eliza she should have the tumor removed three years before but Eliza said no as she suspected the operation would kill her. Eliza was able to chat with her nephew Jack on his return to England in the summer 1906 for a visit. However, the day after Jack left to return to the United States, Eliza again got very ill.

On 4 June 1908, after a period of illness of over 20 years, Eliza Barrington House Cuff died and was buried next to her beloved John in the Tatworth Church Yard.

In her will, Eliza left 200 pounds to each of her three surviving siblings – Jane, Elizabeth, and William Brewer upon settlement of her estate. To Mary Hannah House, she left the interest on 200 pounds to commence immediately – with the instructions that upon Mary Hannah's death, the 200 pounds would be divided equally among Eliza's nieces Annie, Ethel and Elsie – John Barrington House's daughters. (*Writer's Note: As Ethel preceded her mother, the money was eventually split between Annie and Elsie.*)

The remainder of her estate – property, house furnishing and remaining funds – she left to be divided equally among John's five surviving nephews and nieces, pending settlement of the estate.

William Brewer House

William Brewer House, named for his father (William) and paternal grandmother (Brewer), was born 4 June 1851 in the village of Tatworth, in the parish of Chard, Somerset. His father registered the birth on 8 November 1851.

In the 1861 English Census, William B. is listed as a 10 year old scholar living with his parents and five siblings on the Downing's Farm in Tatworth. (*William is actually 9 at the time of the Census.*)

He probably spent his teenage years helping his father and older siblings on the family farm. By his early twenties he had decided farming was not to his liking and had secured a job with the Collar Works in Tatworth. By the 1881 English Census, he has become manager (clerk) of the Collar Works, although he still lives at home with his father, older sister Jane, and niece Ada.

On 28 February 1884, William Brewer married Minna Louisa Hecks (also born in Chard, Somerset) in the Parish Church in the "Ninety" of the parish of St. John and St. George in the City of Exeter. (Exeter is southwest of Chard in the county of Devon on the south coast of England.) William B. was listed as being of "full age," a bachelor, living on Market Street, parish of St. John and St. George in the parish of Chard, Somerset. His occupation is listed as "Commercial Trnvith" (spelling in question). His father was William House, farmer. Minna Louisa was listed as of "full age," a spinster, and apparently also living on Market Street in Chard. Her father, Thomas Hecks, was also a farmer. They were married by John Popham, the Rector of the Parish Church. Witnesses were George Manley and Elizabeth Quick.

Minna Louisa was the oldest child of Thomas, age 52, and Elizabeth D., age 48, Hecks remaining at home at the time of the 1881 Census. Thomas worked the Touches Farm of 160 acres in Chard and employed 11 laborers. Minna Louisa's younger siblings were Harriet J., age 19; Leatherine, age 11; and Thomas, age 9.

At the time of the birth of William Brewer and Minna's first child on 30 August 1884, a son named Milton, the family was living in Forton, Chard, Somerset; William Brewer was a clerk at a local Collar Works at the time. Sometime shortly after Milton's birth, William Brewer apparently purchased the George Hotel on Fore Street in Chard, probably with the 100 pounds given to him by his father as down payment, and both his father William and sister Jane came to live there after giving up Downing's Farm. His sister Jane was apparently nursing a failing William. On 12 February 1886, William Brewer's father died on Fore Street in Chard.

(*Writer's Notes: (1) Why William Brewer and Minna Louisa went to Exeter to be married, rather than staying in Chard, is unknown. (2) The identification of William Brewer's commercial profession listed on the marriage certificate defies this Writer's*

grasp. (3) The parish of St. John and St. George appears to be common to Chard and Exeter.)

Minna and William proceeded to have three more sons by 1890:

Edwin Barrington, born on 6 May 1886;

William Brewer (Jr.), born about May 1888, baptized on 7 June 1888; and Clifford, born about 1890.

The 1891 English Census finds William B., age 39, and Minna Louisa, age 32, living at the George Hotel on Fore Street in Chard, parish of Chard, in Somerset. William B. is listed as "Hotel Proprietor" and he, his wife, and all his children are listed as having been born in Chard, Somerset. Their son Milton, age 6, and Edwin B., age 4, attend school. Their sons William B. (Jr.), age 3, and Clifford, age 1, are too young for school. Minna Louisa, with four sons 6 and below, has her hands full caring for the children. Annie Gambart House, age 18, single, and listed as "niece," (John Barrington's oldest daughter) is working as the barmaid of the hotel (and probably helping Minna Louisa with the boys.) The hotel staff are all single and listed as "servant:" Constance Anthony, age 35, is Manageress; John Look, age 30, is Books (domestic); Emma Scrivan – age 19, Bessie Rhippin – age 20, Ira Barrett – age 15, Bessie Norris – age 13, and Eliza Guy – age 12 are all listed as "General Servant." There are only two hotel guests, both 22 year old males, listed as "visitor" at the time of the Census.

5 April 1891 – Somerset, Chard				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William B. House	39	Head	Hotel Proprietor	Somerset, Chard
Minna Louisa	32	Wife		Somerset, Chard
Milton	6	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
Edwin B.	4	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
William B.	3	Son		Somerset, Chard
Clifford	1	Son		Somerset, Chard
Annie Gambart House	18	Niece	Barmaid	Somerset, Chard

Over the next six years, William Brewer and Minna Louisa continue to increase the size of their family with the birth of five more children:

Harold, born about 1892 and baptized on 11 August 1892;

Gordon B. and Ada M., twins, born early 1894;

A son born on 14 March 1895 who caught whooping cough from the twins and died within a month; and

Herbert H., born about 1896-7.

On the 18th of June 1892, “The Chard and Ilminster News” recorded W.B. House present at a meeting of local Conservatives held at the George Inn, Combe St. Nicholas; William B. was not recorded as having spoken at the meeting.

William apparently had difficulty making the George Hotel into a prosperous business. The George Hotel had turned into the rallying point for William’s extended family and close friends, many of whom may not have been paying guests. Sometime before 1894, Sarah Clark (Aunt Sallie / Sarah), William’s brother John Barrington’s sister-in-law, took up residence in the George Hotel. John Barrington’s youngest daughter Elsie (age 11) started a seven week visit there in June 1894. Aunt Jane (Mary Jane House) and her husband (William Pain) paid a visit in September 1894. John Barrington spent two weeks at the George in October while looking for a job in Chard; and Mr. Lawrence of Tatworth (Jack House’s godfather) stayed a few days in October while looking into the possibility of getting old Bond’s Farm just outside of Chard. While it is very doubtful that the forgoing discussion of George Hotel visits of William’s acquaintances is all inclusive for the five month period, it probably is representative of the family traffic.

By October 1894 William was confiding in his niece Annie House that he was considering selling the George Hotel. During this time, William was also reported as “doing his brandy and soda very freely.” To make a little extra money, William started catering a bar service to major dances and other festivities held in communities surrounding Chard. The new operation started slowly with only two jobs in the Christmas season of 1894.

In March 1895, sickness was rampant throughout England; both William and Minna were laid low with the flu. But even worse, Minna gave birth to a son on 14 March and he caught Whooping Cough from the twins and died in April. By August, William’s catering service was expanded significantly; he had already picked up 12 jobs so far in 1895. Also in August, his niece Ethel House (John Barrington’s second daughter) paid a four day visit to the George Hotel; and her brother Bryan, who worked in a bar in London, helped William in his catering business when home on holiday. In November 1895, William’s sister-in-law Mary Hannah came to the George Hotel for a rest while fighting a migraine headache.

In May 1896, William sold the George Hotel and moved his family into the Chard Farm House (out by the Parish Church in Chard.) Coincident with the sale, Annie House went home to be with her family at Wallscombe Farm and Sarah Clark went to stay with Mrs. Lawrence (Jack’s godmother) near Litworth. William’s older sister Eliza in South Chard thought William made a “real mess of it” in his handling of the George Hotel. In September 1896, William’s nephew Bryan tried to talk him into buying a pub in London, but William was still evaluating his options and, in fact, was leaning more toward returning to the Collar Works if he could get a good position there.

Evidently, the Collar Works option did not work out as William and his family were still in the Chard Farm House in May of 1897, a year after they left the George Hotel. However, by late fall 1897, William had taken his family to Prestatyn in North Wales,

secured a hotel there, and reportedly had a “good house.” By December 1897, William had established a good rapport with the local Welsh people and had convinced his niece Annie House to join him and run the hotel bar; this Annie did right after Christmas. In August 1898, William and family are reported as doing fine in Wales; they enjoy the people and the climate; and his sons are getting to be “fine boys.” However, by early 1901, William had left the hotel in Prestatyn and moved his family to Liverpool in Lancashire; Annie House had married and started a new life.

The 1901 English Census shows William Brewer and Minna Louisa House with their growing family living at 15 Coleridge Street in Liverpool, Lancashire. William B., age 49, is listed as a “general laborer;” Minna is now 42. Their family has expanded to seven children: Milton, age 16, works as a joiner in a machine shop; Edwin B., age 14, is an apprentice joiner; William B. (Jr.), age 13, does not work (*William B.’s age is incorrect in the Census*); Clifford B., age 12, does not work; the twins, Gordon B. and Ada M., age 7; and Herbert H., age 4. Harold has not been found anywhere in the census and, since no child listed is of Harold’s age (9), he has probably died.

31 March 1901 – Lancashire, Liverpool				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William B. House	49	Head	General Laborer	Somerset, Chard
Minna L.	42	Wife		Somerset, Chard
Milton	16	Son	Joiner, Machine Shop	Somerset, Chard
Edwin B.	14	Son	Apprentice Joiner	Somerset, Chard
William B.	13 1/4	Son		Somerset, Chard
Clifford B.	12	Son		Somerset, Chard
Gordon B.	7	Son		Somerset, Chard
Ada M.	7	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Herbert H.	4	Son		Somerset, Chard

In December 1902, now working in Perry Street, William attended his brother, John Barrington’s, funeral in Ilminster, Somerset. Both William and his nephew Bryan House stayed at the George Hotel in Chard and were apparently a little rambunctious in the drowning of their grief. John Barrington House had appointed Mr. Roberts, a young lodger of long standing in John Barrington’s household, to be executor of his estate. Having to deal with a young man whom he did not know regarding his brother’s estate did not sit well with William, or with their sisters Eliza and Jane.

While in Chard for the funeral, William secured a job as coal agent for W.H. Chick of Chard and started to move his family down from Liverpool in January 1903. William was reported to have had a “very miserable time in Liverpool” and welcomed the opportunity to return to the familiar country of southeast Somerset. Reportedly, his two older boys, William and Barry, remained in Liverpool. (*Writer’s Note: The source of the foregoing sentence is John Barrington’s daughter Ethel. The son referred to as Barry is most probably Edwin B.; William is the number three son; this leaves the oldest, Milton,*

unaccounted for. The Writer suspects Ethel is in error and the two sons left behind were Milton (about age 17) and Edwin B. (about 15)).

In December 1904, William was living at 6 Springfield Terrace in Perry Street and working as a Farm Bailiff for Small Berry Street. After an eight year void, Minna presented William his final known son – John Eric – on the 24th of October. Many extended family members were horrified at this most recent birth. In June 1908, William's sister Eliza Barrington House Cuff passed away leaving William 200 pounds when her estate was settled.

Two of Williams' sons – William Brewer Jr. and Gordon – are listed among the Tatworth war dead for WWI. We learn the following about the two fallen soldiers from the Book of Remembrance at Tatworth Church:

William Brewer House Jr., Private 21560, 3rd Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, died on Saturday April 18th, 1916 at the age of 29 in the Plymouth Military Hospital. His body was returned to Tatworth and buried with full military honors, the Rev. H. Stuart King, Vicar of Tatworth presiding. Brewer had been employed at the Perry Street Lace Factory before WWI.

Gordon B. House, Private in the Wiltshire Regiment, died in Mesopotamia on 29 March 1917 at the age of 23. Prior to the War Gordon had been employed at Larcombe Stores in South Chard and at Clarke's Stores in Chard. Because there was no mention of a local burial, it appears that Gordon was buried in Mesopotamia.

At the time of WWI, William Brewer and Minna were still living at 6 Springfield Terrace in Perry Street, a small community adjacent to Tatworth to the east.

In 1930, E. Barrington House was proprietor of The Olde Poppe Inne in Tatworth. E. Barrington is almost certainly William Brewer House, Sr.'s son Edwin Barrington.

Unfortunately, this ends our knowledge of William Brewer House and his family.

John Barrington House

John Barrington House was born on 24 November 1843 in the village of Tatworth in the parish of Chard, county of Somerset; so reads his birth certificate. His father is listed as William; mother Ann House, formerly Barrington. William's occupation is that of yeoman (free man, land holding farmer, middleclass, just below the gentry). William signed his own name – W. House. The birth, line entry number 16, was registered by William on 27 December 1843 with Samuel Ware, Registrar.

The 1851 English Census is our first good look at John Barrington and his family. His father is working a 160 acre farm, employing three men and two boys, in the Tatworth Tything area of Chard, Somerset. Present in the household are his parents, William and Ann; his older brother James, age 10, who was helping his father work the farm; three younger sisters – Ann B., age 5; Jane, age 3; and Eliza, age 6 months; and two field hands, Robert Modson and Jerry Pram, listed as servants. John B.'s age (8) listed in the Census is incorrect; it should be 7. Eliza's age is also incorrect; it should be 21 months old. None of the children are shown attending school.

30 March 1851 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth Tything				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	40	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	40	Wife	Farmer's wife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
James	10	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
John B.	7 ½	Son		Somerset, Chard
Ann B.	5	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Jane	3	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Eliza	21 6 mo.	Dau.		Somerset, Chard
Robert Modson	19	Servant	Servant	Somerset, Chard
Jerry Pram		Servant	Servant	Somerset, North Curry

The 1861 English Census shows John, single at age 17, with his parents and five siblings living on the Downing's Farm in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. John, his father, two older and one younger sibling, four hired men and two boys work the family's 180 acre farm. The Ecclesiastical Parish or District where they live was that of "Bath and Wells."

7 April 1861 - Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	50	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	50	Wife	Housewife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
James	20	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
Elizabeth	19	Dau.	Farmer's dau.	Somerset, Chard
John	17	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard
Ann	15	Dau.	Farmer's dau.	Somerset, Chard
Eliza	12	Dau.	Farmer's dau.	Somerset, Chard
William	10	Son	Farmer's son	Somerset, Chard

At age 20, John Barrington witnessed his sister Anne's marriage and was unable to sign his own name – making a mark (X) instead. Minimum schooling among boys, particularly first and second sons, among the farming community at this time appears to be quite prevalent. Apparently boys were needed too much to work the farm and could not be spared to finish their schooling. Girls appear to have been more often permitted to complete their schooling.

Our third look at John Barrington is the 1871 Census when, at 27, he, his parents (William and Ann), three of his younger siblings, and niece Ada M. S. Milton were still living in Downing's Farm House in Tatworth. John B., listed as Farmer's Son, was almost certainly pulling a major load in running the now 160 acre farm, with his 60 year old father, three younger siblings, three hired men and two boys.

2 April 1871 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
William House	60	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
Ann	60	Wife	Farmer – wife	Somerset, Stoke St. Gregory
John B.	27	Son	Farmer – son	Somerset, Chard
Jane	23	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
Eliza B.	21	Dau.	Farmer – dau.	Somerset, Chard
William B.	19	Son	Farmer - son	Somerset, Chard
Ada M.S. Milton	5	G. Dau.	Scholar	Middlesex, London

On 31 August 1871, John Barrington House married Mary Hannah Clark in the Parish Church in the parish of Salcombe Regis, county of Devon. John is listed on the Marriage Certificate as a 27 year old bachelor farmer. His father is William House, a farmer. Mary is listed as a spinster "of full age" living in Salcombe Regis. Her father is John Clark, a farmer. The service was conducted by "Jⁿ A. Morshead, Vicar." John House has apparently learned to sign his name during the past seven years, as both he and Mary signed the Marriage Certificate. Mary's sisters, Sarah and Annie Clark, signed as witnesses on her behalf. (*Writer's Note: The witness Annie Clark may have been Mary's*

mother who sometime between 1861 and 1871 started using her first name Anne rather than her middle name Elizabeth.)

The 1851 – 1871 English Censuses provide us a little insight into Mary Hannah’s family. Her parents were John and Anne Elizabeth Clark. She had six known brothers; John and George were older and William, Joseph, Bryan W. A. and Thomas E. were younger. She also had two known younger sisters, Sarah just over a year younger and Anne about five years younger than Mary Hannah. John Clark was a butcher/farmer and spent most of his life in the South Clifton area of Nottinghamshire where all of his children were born. Mary Hannah’s mother, Anne Elizabeth, was born in London.

Sometime in the late 1860’s, John retired and moved his family to the south coast of England. The 1871 English Census shows the family living on Spring Combe Road in Salcombe Regis, Devon. Mary’s father John, age 52, and mother Annie E. Clark, age 50, have six family members and three visitors in their household on the day the census was taken. The family members include two daughters – Mary H., age 25, and Sarah E., age 23 – and two sons – Bryan W.A., age 17, and Thomas E.B.A., age 15. John is a retired farmer and identifies his birth location as Clifton, Lincolnshire, as do all his children. Annie E. lists her birth location as London, Surrey. The daughters list no occupation, but both sons attend school and are identified as scholars. The visitors are Euphrase Deschampe, age 42, a widow born in Belgium and her two daughters – Marie A, age 15, and Matilda, age 14 – both born in London, Surrey. Euphrase, most probably an old acquaintance of Annie E, lists her occupation as “independent.” (*Writer’s Note: On previous censuses, the birth location of John Clark and all of his children was listed as South Clifton, Nottinghamshire.*)

Salcombe Regis is located on the southern coast of England, approximately 27 miles south southwest of Tatworth. How John Barrington and Mary Hannah ever got together is unknown.

Either immediately before or shortly after the marriage, John leased his own farm in Tatworth or took over farming a portion of the land his father William of Downing’s Farm had previously leased; probably the latter. John Barrington and Mary Hannah had, at least, five children before the end of the decade:

Annie Gambart, born 10 June 1872;
John William, named after his father and grandfather and born 4 August 1873;
Florence Ethel, born 9 January 1876;
Bryan Barrington, born 22 July 1877; and
Ernest Edward, born 28 January 1880.

Sometime around 1875, John Barrington’s oldest sister Elizabeth and her husband Nicholas Harriman left Tatworth and moved to the adjacent village of South Chard. With the Harriman’s departure, his father William’s cottage, The Elms became vacant and John Barrington apparently moved his family into the cottage. The Elms would prove to be the “childhood home” of John Barrington and Mary Hannah’s older children.

On 22 November 1877, John Barrington's youngest sister, Eliza Barrington, married John Cuff in the Village Church of Tatworth. John B. and his family were certainly in attendance. Two and one half years later, both Mary Hannah and her sister Sarah were devastated upon hearing of their younger sister Annie's death on 19 June 1880; their widowed brother-in-law, Gustavus Kottgen (Koettgen), was left with four children ages 10 and below to raise.

The 1881 English Census shows John B., age 36, and Mary H., age 37, living on an unidentified street (probably in a cottage named The Elms) in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. The ages of John B. and Mary H. on the census should be reversed; Mary H. would not have been 37 until 4 May 1881. John Barrington and his family had certainly moved into The Elms by 1885. One of the front window panes still (in 1962) bore witness to their presence as it was etched in the lower right hand corner "John House – 1885." (*Writer's Note: In later years, John William (Jack) told his family that he was responsible for the window pane etching; he had accomplished the task as a boy of 12.*) In the back of The Elms, in a niche connecting a brick wall to a stone wall, a stone had been mortared-in upon which had been chiseled "1863 – W.H." John B.'s father William had left his mark when he had converted the Downing Dairy House into The Elms. A picture of The Elms, the etched window and the stone are in the House Family Picture Album - England in a separate document.

(*Writer's Note: Unfortunately, by 2006 The Elms had been demolished and more modern bungalows built in its place. The Downing's Farm House, however, remains.*)

In the 1881 Census, John B. is listed as a "Farmer of 95 acres" and born in Chard, Somerset, as were all his children. Mary H. lists her birth location as Clifton, Nottingham.

3 April 1881 – Somerset, Chard, Tatworth				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
John B. House	36	Head	Farm of 95 Acres	Somerset, Chard
Mary H.	37	Wife		Nottingham, Clifton
Annie G.	8	Dau.	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
John W.	7	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
Florence E.	5	Dau.	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
Bryan B.	3	Son		Somerset, Chard
Earnest E.	1	Son		Somerset, Chard

By the end of the decade, John Barrington and Mary Hannah have added three more children to complete their family:

Elsie Hilda, born 22 October 1882;
Harry Clark, born 26 June 1884; and

Clifford Roy, born 13 March 1886.

On 28 February 1884, John Barrington's brother William Brewer married Minna Louisa Hecks in Exeter, Devon. On 12 February 1886, John Barrington's father, William House, died at age 75 in a dwelling on Fore Street in Chard, believed to be the George Hotel and the home of his son William Brewer. William was buried in the Tatworth Cemetery next to his beloved wife Ann Barrington. His children and their families were certainly in attendance. John Barrington registered his father's death with the Registrar in Chard on the 15th of February, having been in attendance at his death. In his Will, William left his cottage and garden, The Elms, to John Barrington for his exclusive use, along with responsibility for the associated mortgage and interests; John Barrington and his family were occupying The Elms at the time.

Farming apparently was not John Barrington's first choice for an occupation. He had been working a farm since he was nine and probably could not wait until his oldest son John (Jack) was big enough to take on much of the responsibility. John Barrington's first love was local politics. He was a Guardian (Village father / village councilman) of Tatworth for 15 years and thoroughly enjoyed the role and the planning, organizing and negotiating that came with it. Consequently, as John Barrington's role and time spent on community affairs increased, so did his teenage son Jack's responsibility for the family's livelihood.

The 1891 English Census shows John B. – age 46 (actually 47), Mary H. – age 46, and their younger seven children living in The Elms cottage in Tatworth, Chard, Somerset. Their next door neighbor, living in the Tatworth Vicary, is Henry Stuart King, age 37, the Vicar of Tatworth. John is listed as a farmer, but his acreage is not specified. Annie, their oldest daughter, has gone to work for her uncle William Brewer House as a barmaid in the George Hotel on Fore Street in Chard. John W., age 17, is listed as a Farmer's Son, obviously helping his dad work the family farm. Florence E., age 15, is a Draper's Assistant. The census recorder reversed the ages and descriptions of Ernest E. and Bryan B. Bryan is now 13 and working as a Grocer's Apprentice. Ernest is 11 and attending school; again in this Census, his name is misspelled as Earnest rather than Ernest, as on his birth certificate. Also attending school are Elsie H. – age 8, Harry C. – age 6, and Clifford R. – age 5.

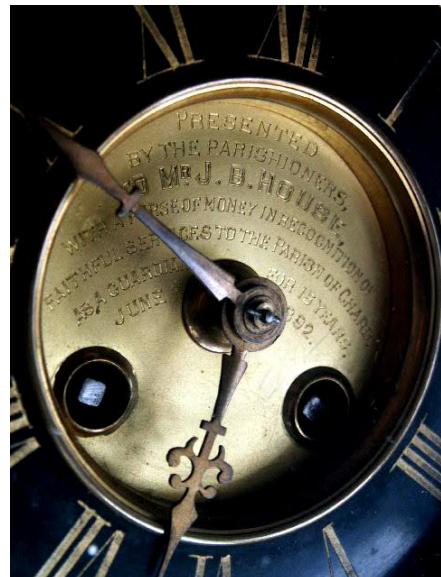
5 April 1891 – Somerset, Chard				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
John B. House	46	Head	Farmer	Somerset, Chard
Mary H.	46	Wife		Somerset, Chard
John W.	17	Son	Farmer's Son	Somerset, Chard
Florence E.	15	Dau.	Draper's Assistant	Somerset, Chard
Earnest E.	13	Son	Grocer's Apprentice	Somerset, Chard
Bryan B.	11	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
Elsie H.	8	Dau.	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
Harry C.	6	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Chard
Clifford R.	5	Son	Scholar	Somerset, Chard

The next ten years were very eventful for John Barrington and his family. John Barrington thought his political connections would secure him a government job in the area, but such was not forth coming. Apparently he had been spending too much time on his political Guardian responsibilities at the expense of his farm; his debts were mounting significantly. Most probably in late 1891 or early 1892, John Barrington's creditors descended upon the family. Two smiling men appeared at the front door; entered and started assigning "lot numbers" to groupings of furniture and goods. Everything from the family's old piano to son Harry's pet ferrets were assigned "lot numbers;" however, the ferrets were quickly removed after the men left and safely secured at a neighbor's across the orchard. A sign "On View" was posted on the front door and subsequently an auction was held. The auction lasted a single day; ended at 6 o'clock in the evening; and attracted every mobile, thin-tongued individual for miles. The experience was absolutely humiliating; Mary Hannah in particular was simply crushed.

According to John B.'s son Harry:

The Auctioneer had done his best, left with only our beds and a few chairs, a table and some sauce pans, etc. I well remember still hanging upon its nail at the foot of the stairs, a picture of Venice; I suppose nobody was sufficiently interested at the sale and so the 'Bridge of Sighs' was left to remind us of 'Home Sweet Home' and to accompany the sighs of dear mother.

Shortly following the auction, the postman arrived with a request from the Chard Guardians for John B. to come immediately to the "village room." There, according to Harry, "he received a marble clock and a purse of gold from the hands of those who regretted this unfortunate blow."



Clock Presented to John Barrington House – June 1892

The clock was reported by “The Chard and Ilminster News” and Harry as being made of marble (but was possibly slate); the purse contained money, not gold. On the clock’s face had been inscribed: “Presented by the Parishioners to Mr. J.B. House with a purse of money in recognition of faithful services to the Parish of Chard as a Guardian for 15 years June 1892.” In fact, according to “The Chard and Ilminster News” of 18 June 1892, the Clock presentation actually occurred at the Golden Fleece Inn on Chard Road. The paper was a “broadsheet,” the account filling an entire column, ending with the following account of the acceptance speech by John Barrington:

Mr. House, who was deeply moved, said it was quite impossible for him to express one hundredth part of his sense of the great honour they had done him in the past, by choosing him as their representative at the Board of Guardians, and now in recognising any small service which he might have been able to render them. During the fifteen years he had been a member of the Board, he had endeavoured to do his duty, and Mr. King had truly said that his first care had been to watch the interests of the poor people. (Applause.) He had always liked to obviate the necessity of those who really needed and deserved relief attending before the Board, but those that did not deserve it should be made to attend and make a personal application. (Applause.) It was to him a feeling of great gratitude and pleasure that his 15 years’ service had been acknowledged, and he could assure them that this timepiece would be handed down for many generations to come, and be looked upon with pride and pleasure by those who came after him. (Applause.) He hoped it would be his happy lot to remain in the neighbourhood, and if they wished it at some future time, when he had the property qualification, he would be pleased to again

Represent them. (Applause.) If he was rated at £500 a year or below £30, he considered he would be just as capable of serving them at the Board of Guardians: it was, indeed, foolish that a man should be debarred from serving the office because he was not sufficiently rated. (Applause.) He thanked them again on behalf of himself and Mrs. House, who would also greatly appreciate their kindness and shared in the feeling of pride and pleasure which he felt. (Applause.)

The paper also noted that John Barrington had resigned his Guardian appointment several months earlier, probably about the time of the auction, when he no longer possessed property of sufficient “rateable value” to hold the Office of Guardian.

It was certainly a nice gesture, but it didn’t do much to dampen the humiliation, particularly with Mary Hannah. However, the “purse of gold” gave John B. sufficient funds to pay his rent and feed the family while he continued looking for a job.

The exact sequence of events is not known; however, shortly after June 1892 John B. packed up the family goods and left Tatworth. Apparently John B. had had enough of farming as a principal source of income and found a business venture more to his liking. According to family lore, John Barrington secured jobs for himself and his oldest son Jack either working in or managing a brick yard in Camel Hill for a Mr. Brook (Brooks), about 20 miles north east of Chard in the parish of Bristol in Somerset.

A horse and wagonette arrived and John Barrington packed his few remaining goods in a wagon and took his young son Harry, Harry’s barrel of ferrets and the family dog Floss along with him and headed for Camel Hill. Mary Hannah took Ernest, Elsie and Clifford by train. John Barrington made at least one known stop – the Old Poppe Inne outside of Tatworth – to say good-bye to a few of his old friends. By sunset, the family was reunited in Camel Hill.

(Writer’s Note: The reader is strongly encouraged to read Harry’s “A Simple Tale of Old Somerset” which he wrote in 1954 on his 70th birthday for his son Trevor. The narrative is superb, although it condenses numerous events and is almost totally without a time-frame reference. It will provide significant further amplification into John Barrington’s life. In his Tale, Harry mentions a sign associated with the Old Poppe Inne identifying Barry House as licensed to sell Beer, Wines, etc. The only known “Barry House” in the vicinity was John Barrington House; hence John Barrington may, at one point in time, have been the proprietor of the Old Poppe Inne; unfortunately, we have no corroborating evidence.)

How John Barrington got himself into such debt in so short a time (1886 – 1892) following his father’s death is simply unknown. Poor management of his farming activities is strongly suspected, but the Old Poppe Inne may have played a role as well, as most certainly his political activities did. It is almost certain that John Barrington was forced to forfeit The Elms as well.)

Very little is known of the family's life in Camel Hill. The oldest son Jack was at home and apparently in business with his father. John Barrington's oldest daughter was with his brother William tending bar at the George Hotel in Chard. His second daughter Ethel was working for a Draper (Milliner) in Yeovil, south of Camel Hill. His second son Bryan was completing his apprenticeship and entering the grocery trade. The remainder of the children remained at home, but at least there were three fewer mouths to feed at dinner time. On 25 September 1893, John Barrington's younger sister Jane, at age 46, married James Albert White in Bedminster, Bristol, Somerset. The wedding was a most welcome surprise to Jane's family.

The specifics of family discussions at this time are not known in detail; however they certainly included the topic of Mary Hannah's youngest two brothers Bryan and Thomas who had departed for the United States as teenagers. The older of the two, Bryan, was farming cotton near Flora, Mississippi and had recently lost his wife which left him with four children to raise. Jack was most taken by the tales of Uncle Bryan and Uncle Thomas and had been expressing interest in joining them for some time; additionally, he missed his first love - farming. Reportedly, emotions got high between father and son when John Barrington gave preference to one of his customer's over Jack's customer for an order of bricks. Somewhere among the heightened emotions within their brick business, his mother's concern for her brother Bryan, and Jack's desires to return to farming and seek his own destiny, things came to a head in early 1894. (*Writer's Note: It is also possible that Jack, at age 20, had come to the realization that he had become the principal bread-winner for the family and, unsatisfied with the future of this role, saw no option but to leave England and strike out on his own.*) John Barrington's oldest son Jack sold his personal belongings and, with a single suitcase, headed to Southampton on the English Channel with some friends enroute to Flora, Mississippi, U.S.A. to join his Uncle Bryan.

Family fears were confirmed when, immediately following Jack's departure in early March 1894, Mr. Brook gave John Barrington an eviction notice. Why the family felt they would lose their lease if / when Jack departed is not known, but John Barrington also appears to have left his job at the same time. Mr. Brook gave them one week's notice on Lady Day.

(*Writer's Note: [1] It is quite possible that Mr. Brook's property was the brick business – which came with a house – and John Barrington (leased) got the property to run the brick business for Mr. Brook. [2] Lady Day, the 25th of March, is the Catholic holiday of the Feast of the Annunciation and marked the first day of spring. In England it was traditionally only remembered by those who paid rent to land lords as one of the four quarterly due-dates; it was also the time when leased farms were competed for.*)

John Barrington did not meet Mr. Brook's deadline. In fact he didn't move his family until the 21st of April – almost a month later. During the delay, tempers rose higher; Mr. Brook cut their water off, at least for a day; and Mary Hannah repeatedly gave Mr. Brook a piece of her mind whenever she could find him. Finally, by the 22nd of April, the family had relocated two miles south to the village of Queen Camel. John Barrington

was picking up odd jobs (e.g. sheep shearing) to help make ends meet. He was also networking with old friends trying to find a permanent job to his liking. Extended family members helped out with gifts of food and/or money; particularly John Barrington's sisters Eliza and Jane, his brother William, and Marry Hannah's sister Sarah. They rented a cottage in Queen Camel by the week in hopes of getting something more permanent soon.

By May 1894, John Barrington was looking "much better" but Mary Hannah was still a nervous wreck. John B. had made numerous friends since he came to Camel Hill / Queen Camel but the preponderance of his contacts were still in the Chard area. He worked them all in hopes of getting a good job. His brother-in-law John Cuff offered to help finance the family's move to California in the United States, but Mary Hannah did not feel her health was up to the trip. By July, John B. was reported having gained 20 pounds. Later in the month, he fell off a hay wagon, landed on his side and was in bed for a week unable to keep any food down. By the end of July, he had regained his strength and was doing odd jobs for a Mr. White in Queen Camel. John B.'s second son Bryan left the grocery trade and secured a job as barman at the Lord Napier in East Greenwich, London; only four children remained at home. In September John B. was reported working for a Mr. Gare doing odd jobs.

John Barrington's older children expressed concern among themselves regarding their father's inability to secure a decent job with winter approaching. Mary Hannah remained distraught about the family's situation. John B. comforted her with "All good things in time, my dear. Our time will come." One area that John B. was unable to comfort Mary H. with was her distress in the infrequency of letters from the United States – from her son Jack and her brothers Bryan and Thomas. The "letter problem" plagued Mary H. for years; her pleading increased in intensity but, more frequently than not, fell on deaf ears.

In October 1894, John B. went to Chard to politic for the reinstatement of the position of Relieving Officer in Axminster, Devon with an eye toward filling the position himself. The Chard Council refused to consider the request until after Christmas, so John B. returned to Queen Camel. In December, John B. applied for the position of Relieving Officer in Crewkerne (about five miles east of Card) but lost by eight votes even though he had sufficient votes promised. John B.'s comment after hearing the results of the vote was reported to have been, "hey, try again."

In January 1895, a Mr. Genge approached John B. about moving to his Wallscombe Farm about a mile east-northeast of Chard. Mr. Genge wanted someone good with his hands to put the farm in order and would pay ten shillings per week for the work. Before they could decide on the move, Mary Hannah took a fall backward, landed on her back and was laid up for three weeks. They finally made the move in early March and Mary Hannah was horrified at the filthy condition of the house; she felt it was impossible to stay there but they had no other option. To make matters worse, Mr. Genge stated he must charge them two shillings a week for each of the three little ones (Elsie, Harry and Clifford), leaving only four shillings per week pay for John B. and Mary H.'s work. Even though lodging and probably food were included, it was a miserly sum for so much

work. Furthermore, Mr. Genge didn't meet his remit to provide the necessary supplies. It is not known how the pay matter was finally settled, but the Genges apparently wanted to retire and move to the farm so they frequently made visits to encourage a faster rate of improvements. Mary Hannah was about at the end of her rope and John B. had increased his efforts to secure a good job; preferably in community government.

In June 1895, Mr. Genge informed John B. that he would have to leave the farm in July as he (Mr. Genge) had sold his business and he wanted to move into the farm. Mr. Genge's sale of his business subsequently went sour and he informed John B. that the family could stay a little longer. Bryan came for a visit in July and was very impressed with his parent's efforts. Bryan also liked the farm, being very impressed with its excellent view of Chard, surrounding neighborhood and the reservoir – and its clean air (as opposed to the air in London). Bryan was also impressed by the appearance of his parents. Even Mary Hannah admitted she had not felt better in her life. Bryan took Ernest with him on his return trip to the Lord Napier in London and secured him a job. The family's headcount now included only three children at home.

In August 1895, John B. was still at Wallscombe Farm but "not very comfortable" according to his daughter Ethel. One job he took on was the transport of manure from his brother William's hotel to Mr. Genge's fields. Aunt Lizzie (sister Elizabeth House Harriman) visited the family in October. The temperature went from about 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade to cool enough to have a fire in the fireplace; the rapid weather changes caused sickness throughout the country side. Although it had been a late, dry, hot summer, the apple harvest had been good. In November, Ethel returned home having quit her job in Yeovil. Timing appeared to be good since Mary H. had taken very sick and Annie was getting worn out running back and forth between the George Hotel and Wallscombe. Mary H. started to improve and went to the George Hotel where her sister Sarah (Aunt Sallie) could take care of her; Ethel was left in Wallscombe to take care of her father and the three young ones. By the end of November, Mary H. had returned home; Ethel was sick; and John B. was reported looking splendid. In early December, John B. applied for a job as manager of a Sanitary Farm at Tunbridge Well, Kent – about 30 miles from London – but he didn't get it. Christmas was quiet, Bryan and Ernie were doing well in London, and Annie was exhausted.

John B. was still in Wallscombe in February 1896 with no real job prospects. Bryan had been home for two weeks leave; had enjoyed himself; and took (escorted) Annie to a dance at the Beach Hotel in Seaton. Ethel had gotten a job working for a Mr. Sheppard in Ilminster. Elsie was growing tall; Harry also; and Clifford was getting stout. Bryan was considering joining Jack in the U.S. but Mary H. was adamantly against it. At some point in the spring, Mr. Genge evidently sold his business; retired; and moved into his Wallscombe Farm. John B. moved his family to a cottage at Number 2 Victoria Road in Chard. By March, Ernie had left the Lord Napier and started work in a bar close by. In July 1896, William House sold the George Hotel in Chard; Annie did not want to work for the new owners so she helped her Uncle William's family move to the Chard Farm; and Sarah Clark (Aunt Sallie) went to spend a month with Mrs. Lawrence. John B. was still working every connection he could think of.

The sequence of events apparently also encouraged the Chard Guardians to look for a job for John B. Several weeks later, John B. was again summoned to the “village room” and was told he had been appointed to the position of Sanitary Inspector in Ilminster. The pay was only 30 pounds a year but, in the words of John B.’s sister Eliza, “that is better than nothing.”

Mary Hannah was recovering now that there was the prospect of a decent life on the horizon. In fact, she was reported to be looking quite well between her frequent sufferings with migraine headaches. By early October 1896, the family was settled in a “very comfortable house” on Leister (Lister, Lester) Hill in Ilminster; Mary H. had no intentions of ever moving again. Furthermore, John Barrington had secured a second job as an Agent for the British Workman’s and General Assurance Company for the Ilminster District; pay to average about one pound per week. Annie had left her Uncle William’s family; spent a few weeks in London; gone home to help her mother set up the new house; and taken a job in Exeter at People’s New London Hotel. Before the end of October, both Bryan and Ethel had been home on holiday; Aunt Sarah had joined her widowed brother-in-law Gustavus Kottgen (Koettgen) to run his household; the two younger boys were back in school; and Elsie was at home helping her mother. All of John Barrington’s working children were reported sending money home to help make ends meet.

In November, Mary Hannah received word that her brother Bryan’s oldest son Dick had died and Bryan was most distraught. Ernie (Ernest) finally made it home for a fortnight (two week) visit. By mid-December, John B. was down with a bad cold and a heavy cough. Christmas was quiet with only Ethel being the extra one at home. New Years was more lively.

In early 1897, John B. started taking-in male lodgers to bring in some extra money. Annie left her job in Exeter in March and returned home. Ethel also left her job and returned. John B. and Mary H., with their two older daughters at home and young, single male lodgers in the house, were treated to the mating dance from front row seats. Bryan and Ernie were in London in May; Aunt Sallie was “quite the lady” at the Kottgens; Annie and Ethel were home having a wonderful time; Harry and Clifford were still in school and testing the limits of parental authority on a regular basis. John B. religiously went to church twice each Sunday and took as many of the children he could round up; and Mary H. attended church unless the lure of an hour or two’s peace and quiet alone prevailed.

By October 1897, Mary H. was really getting worried about her son Jack and her brothers in the U.S. as she hadn’t heard from any of them for nine months. Sarah Clark came for a visit and then returned to London. Annie had apparently returned to her job in Exeter and Ethel returned to hers in Ilminster. Ethel had gotten tired of Ilminster and Annie wanted her to get a job in Exeter for company; Elsie was still at home and was almost as tall as Ethel; and both Harry and Clifford were declared to be “real tartars.”

In November, Bryan had an accident at work and almost lost his right thumb; he spent three weeks at home recovering. Ernest returned to the Lord Napier and was reported in good health and stout. Uncle Bryan finally wrote to Mary H. and stated that he had seen Jack who was well; Jack was now working in an ice factory. By December 1897, Annie was making plans to leave Exeter after Christmas and join Uncle William in Prestatyn, North Wales where he had taken a new hotel. Elsie was reported to be taller than Ethel; and the boys, Harry and Clifford, offered "only mischief." John B. announced he never felt better in his life and refused to shave. Aunt Sarah was still with the Kottgens in London, leading quite the "lady's life" and riding herd on the two daughters, Lily and Daisy, of her brother-in-law Gustavus.

In February 1898, John B. wrote his only known letter to his son Jack. John B. chose not to address his troubles since Jack's departure so as not to hurt Jack's feelings.

Now my dear boy I will not dwell on or hurt your feelings about the troubles of the past years since I last saw you in Camel Hill but I assure you very few days have passed since that time without you in my thoughts and wishing you God speed.

He wanted all the particulars of Jack's new country, to include local newspapers. He admitted he thought Jack had gone to the Klondike goldfields because they had not heard from him in so long. He told Jack that Ernest had grown tall but hadn't been home in a year and a half; Elsey (sic) was 5 feet 6 inches tall; Cliff had grown a head taller; and he (John B.) looks forward to next summer when he hopes Harry will leave school and go into an apprenticeship. John B. stated he was impressed with how well Jack speaks of the U.S. and its people, but did not understand why Jack thought he had become "too much American" to enjoy Old England again. He told Jack they had had a mild winter, without frost or snow; he had already started to plant his garden. He wished Jack good health and happiness and hoped he would return soon for a visit.

By June, Bryan had left the Lord Napier; gone home for a few weeks; and secured a job with C. Brown, Wine and Spirits Merchants in London. Ernie had returned home for a two week holiday after a two year's absence; he had grown into a man and surprised them all. But the major event impacting the family was the death on 28 June 1898 of John B.'s brother-in-law John Cuff. John Cuff was laid to rest in the village cemetery in Tatworth. Before John Cuff died, John B. was designated to handle the estate. John B.'s bedridden sister Eliza trusted her brother and welcomed the help. John Cuff was not a wealthy man, but he had been thrifty and had accumulated significant funds; certainly more than the preponderance of his village neighbors. John B. advised Eliza to put her estate in the hands of a trusted lawyer and to sell the excess land and farm equipment to reduce her scope of concerns. Eliza followed John B.'s advice and subsequently had sufficient funds to more than adequately live off the interest from her investments.

In August 1898, John B. was reported being very well indeed. Elsie had grown into a very attractive young woman with suitors calling daily; but her ambitions to leave home and make her own way were thwarted by her mother who didn't want to do without her

help. Mary H. continued frequently to be bedridden with severe migraines. News arrived of Jack's accident which required the amputation of a toe; concern abounded. Ethel had developed a problem with her right arm and had to leave work for a few months to recover.

By the spring of 1899, Jack had written a long letter and sent a photo home; all were ecstatic. He also had made plans to return to England only to have them cancelled by his employer. Mary H. visited her sister-in-law Jane (Aunt Jennie) and reported she had a lovely home in Bristol and was married to a "very nice wealthy man." Ethel's arm has healed; a new lodger had taken a real fancy to her, but she was not interested. Mary H. was still keeping Elsie home to help with the housework. Harry spent a few weeks as an apprentice to a grocer, but walked out; he was then apprenticed to an ironmonger and seemed very happy. Clifford was still in school. Bryan broke a blood vessel under his right eye and came home for a rest. Ernie was "very well and happy." Annie has written to her family, but not very often.

By July 1899, Jack had announced that he was getting married. Bryan had recovered; his health was splendid, but he was still at home having a grand old time. Ethel looked "A-1 at Lloyds" – as good as she possible could. Elsie was staying "at Payhembury with Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence" (Jack's godparents); Aunt Sarah Clark was there also. Eliza House Cuff came for a visit; brought mutual friends from North Curry along with her; Mr. Spurde drove them down in his Brougham. It was 84 degrees in the shade; hay harvest was over; corn harvest was about to start. Ernie had returned to London after a three week holiday at home. John B. and family at home were "wonderfully well."

December 1899 was something else. John B. had been seriously ill and in bed for seven weeks with inflammation of the lower part of his body and influenza. He had a second doctor, but both said only time and rest would heal. John B. made it downstairs for an hour on Christmas Day. Ethel tried to send Jack's fiancée a photo of John B., but addressed the letter to Miss White rather than to Miss Williams; all are disappointed. Annie, who had announced she was getting married, cancelled plans to come home on the 22nd; she won't be home until after New Years. Mary H. lamented "a very mute party; only the children to join in our sad trial." However, Aunt Jeanie (Jane, Jennie) and her husband Jim White came down from Bristol to see John B.; evidently they also gave John B. some money to tide him over. Mary H. wrote Jack to send them a thank-you letter; she even gave Jack their address to encourage a positive response. And, of course, Bryan was still at home, but hoping for a good job after New Years.

Annie and her fiancée, Leslie Green, made it down from North Wales after the New Year; and on 19 January 1900 they were married in the Parish Church in Ilminster, Somerset. After the wedding they went back to Prestatyn, North Wales to set up housekeeping.

By April 1900, Ethel had sent her description and promised a photo to Jack's fiancée – Olive Williams – to be passed on to Olive's brother Walter Williams who was looking for a wife. Mary H. hasn't been feeling well and wanted Ethel to leave her new job in

Yeovil and come home to keep house. On a more positive note, John B. appears to have fully recovered and started to cycle – or rather, tricycle. Unfortunately, the tricycle was simply too much of a temptation to John B.’s youngest two sons – Harry and Clifford; it wasn’t too long before they got it out from the shed and wrecked it. (*Writer’s Note: A picture of John Barrington House riding his tricycle is in the House Family Picture Album - England.*) On 12 April 1900, John B. and Mary Hannah became grandparents when Annie gave birth to son – Thomas Leslie Green – in Prestatyn, North Wales.

By the first part of May, John B. was again not feeling well and apparently went to stay with his sister Jane and her husband Jim White in Bristol to seek medical treatment from the hospital in that town. By 16 May, John B., still in Bristol, said he was felling better than he had in months; knew he should have called a doctor before; however, he could now breathe more freely and sleep; but his nose must be treated monthly until he is cured. He also asked Ethel to see if her mother could spare Elsie and send her to him, presumably to help in his care during recovery.

On 23 June 1900, John B.’s oldest son, John (Jack) William House, married Olive Mildred Williams in the home of her parents in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas, U.S.A. Mary Hannah had received the Greenville Newspaper description of Jack’s wedding; she felt a marriage in the bride’s home was a little strange but assumed it must be the custom. John B. heard about the terrible hurricane that hit Galveston, Texas; he was initially worried, but then realized Jack was far enough north to miss most of its effects. Ernie had been home on a three week holiday; arrived pale, but left in the best of health. Mary Hannah had been to see both the Lawrences and her sister Sarah. Elizabeth House Harriman, Elizabeth’s married daughter Edie Hecks, and Edie’s two children had been for a visit; and Bryan spent a week or two with Aunt Jennie (Jane House White).

John B. picked up another job – Surveyor for the Ilminster District. Mary H. reported that John B. had become “quite a man of importance;” he kept “to his forms and reading rooms;” he always enjoyed Parish business; he seemed “very happy.” John B. now had two positions in the Ilminster District structure and he apparently kept his Assurance Agent job; additionally, he was taking in borders and getting some money from his working children. Apparently at long last, his income was sufficient to pay his bills; particularly if his working children stayed at work.

In September, Ernie and Elsie cycled from Ilminster to Yeovil to see Ethel who was still working there and lived with her cousin Mary Stewart’s family. Harry had decided he wanted to work in London when free from his apprenticeship. By November, Bryan had finally started in a new job. Mary H. sent Jack’s wife Olive a recipe for Christmas Pudding; it was a good one. The Boer War (1899-1902) was the talk of England; Harry, as a member of the Church Lad’s Brigade, was “ready to go and have a smash at them.” Ernie crushed his little finger at work. Clifford started his apprenticeship to a grocer and was doing quite well. Christmas was quiet; Ethel was the only extra one at home.

In February 1901, John B. and Mary H. were reported bearing “their age well; don’t look very old;” however, John B. had caught a “high cold.” Annie and her son Tom arrived

for a several week visit while Annie's husband Leslie looked for a new job in the London area. By March, the heather was "showing" but the country was in mourning over the death of their much loved Queen. Olive told John B. his birthday gift would be a special pair of slippers; John B. responded that he couldn't wait until 24 November.

The 1901 English Census, taken on 31 March, shows John B. – age 55 – and Mary H. – age 55 – living on Leister Hill in Ilminster, Somerset. John B. now lists his occupation as Surveyor. Elsie H., now going by her middle name Hilda, is 19 and helps her mom at home. Harry Clark., age 17, is now an Iron Monger. Clifford, age 16, is a Grocer's Apprentice. In the Census, Harry and Clifford's occupations are reversed. John Barrington and Mary Hannah's oldest daughter Annie Green, age 29, has returned to stay with her parents while her husband Leslie is job hunting in the London area. Annie's 11 month old son Thomas is with her; Thomas's age of 7 months in the Census is incorrect.

31 March 1901 – Somerset, Ilminster				
Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birth Place
J. B. House	55	Head	Surveyor	Somerset, Chard
M. H.	55	Wife	At home	Nottingham, Clifton
E. Hilda	19	Dau.	At home	Somerset, Chard
Harry C.	17	Son	Grocer's Apprentice	Somerset, Chard
Clifford	16	Son	Iron Monger	Somerset, Chard
Annie Green	29	Dau.	Visitor	Somerset, Chard
Thomas Green	7m	G. Son		Prestatyn, North Wales

The first week in May 1901, John Barrington went to see some friends in Queen Camel; because he drove from Ilminster to Ilchester, he did not stop in Yeovil to see Ethel. Leslie Green was able to secure a new job near London so Annie and her family were now living about 20 miles outside London. Both Bryan and Ernie had made it home for a holiday. Ernie and Harry cycled over to Yeovil to see Ethel; Clifford cycled to Payhembury, a 50 mile ride, to see Aunt Nell (Mrs. Lawrence). Aunt Sally (Sarah) left the Kottgens after a row with Lily; Gustavus was very upset.

By July, Mary H. acknowledged her sight was getting bad; it was painful to read or write. John B. was reported looking well and getting about all over the countryside on his tricycle. Mary H. complained about the absence of letters from Jack or her brothers in the U.S.; also about not having gone anywhere recently; stuck at home; and hoped to escape with Ethel on her next visit home. Somerset was having "a lovely summer;" John B.'s garden was looking well; peas were "very plenty and potatoes very good."

Ethel made it home on holiday in late July and early August; she and her mother went to visit Aunt Nell and Aunt Sarah in Devonshire. Bryan was home when Ethel arrived and they subsequently went to see Aunt Eliza in South Chard; noted she had started wearing a corset; and saw a great many Tatworth friends also. Annie's little boy Tom sprained his leg. Harry spent his holiday at Annie's, and then went to London where Bryan and Ernie

showed him the sights. John B. was reported to be robust and lively and found plenty to do in his new duties.

In November 1901, Mary H. really lambasted both Jack and Olive for not writing; she said she couldn't remember when she had last gotten a letter from them. Ethel was planning to leave Yeovil after Christmas for London. Aunt Sallie left Devonshire to care for a very old man by the name of Trump in Pinhoe in Exeter, Somerset. The weather was bitter – three sharp frosts already; both John B. and Mary H. felt the cold very much. Aunt Elizabeth Harriman and family were well but no-one in Ilminster had heard from Aunt Eliza Cuff since summer. Ernie was expected home for Christmas; Annie was expecting her second child; Elsie spent a fortnight with Aunt Jane in Bristol and with Tom and Edie Hecks on holiday. John B. had his birthday on the 24th; Ethel was the only extra one that made it home; John B. was reported to be looking very well, a little stouter and devoted to his Parish business.

Christmas was quiet; Ethel was the only one who made it home; it rained the entire week. Mary H. received Olive's "centerpiece," thought it absolutely beautiful, and would treasure it always. Mary H. had started writing her letters on the Ilminster Urban District Council stationary of J. B. House, District Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. Clifford had a problem with his legs and feet for about a month; all question now if he will be able to finish his apprenticeship on time. Mary H. finally made a visit to "poor old Tatworth;" she lamented about old times and how things don't change. She also made it to South Chard to see Aunt Cuff who keeps her house "quite smart" and was looking "wonderfully well." Harry was getting to be a big fellow and doing well in business; Bryan also was doing well in his new job.

On 21 February 1902, Annie House Green presented her parents their second grandchild – Vera Gambart Green. On 25 March 1902, Jack and Olive followed suit with their first daughter – Mary Sue House – named after both paternal and maternal grandmothers. Mary Hannah was ecstatic; there could be no higher compliment than having a granddaughter named after her.

The slippers Olive promised John Barrington for his birthday in November 1901 were received just prior to the birth of Mary Sue, undoubtedly delayed due to Olive's pregnancy. John B. was extremely pleased and showed them off to all of his friends and any one else who came by; he showed the "pedigree" and told the history of the slippers to anyone who would listen. Mary Hannah suggested he wear them to the forthcoming Coronation. The "shoes are quite a curiosity and thought to be most valuable." (*Writer's Note: A description of the slippers has not been found; however, they may have been "Indian moccasins" made from leather from one of the animals Jack got hunting and then stitched and decorated by Olive's expert needle work.*)

John B. asked Harry to write a note of thanks to Olive and to ask Jack if he was coming home for Coronation Day (26 June). He also instructed Harry to tell Jack that he "need not be afraid to come; there is plenty of room to walk about without stepping into the sea (even) if it is a small country." Harry was "out of my time" (had completed his

apprenticeship) and was home preparing the family garden. Bryan was also home for a few days before returning to London. Elsie went to visit Aunt Sallie and Mr. Trump in Pinhoe for a few weeks. Ethel quit her job and went to Annie's to help out with the baby. Clifford went to Devonshire to spend some time with the Lawrences. By the 26th of March, Harry was informed he had gotten the job he wanted in Windsor. John B. agreed to look for a pedigreed dog for Jack.

Bryan and Ethel served as "sponsors" for the Christening of Annie's daughter Vera in Wales in April. The Christening occurred just before Mrs. Gambart (believed to be a favorite cousin) died. Aunt Sallie and Aunt Cuff were both reported to be ill. Ernie had a girlfriend who was acknowledged to be "very nice." Annie almost cut her finger off taking a knife away from her son Tom; Ethel was taking off to go help Annie. Aunt Jennie and Uncle Jim White stayed a while with John B. and Mary Hannah and had a most enjoyable time. The much anticipated Coronation was delayed until August due to the King's illness.

In August, Mary Hannah was watching the post (mail) for a letter from Jack and Olive. Elsie spent a few days with Aunt Eliza Cuff. Cliff went to see the Lawrences at Upton Farm in Devon. John B. was very busy taking in his potatoes; fearing a fungus was attacking them. Cliff had only nine months more in his apprenticeship. Harry was in London and doing well; he often went to Annie's for visits. Little Tom had grown into a big boy. Elsie was still at home taking care of John B. and Mary H.

In early September 1902, John Barrington became ill and the pain and discomfort seemed only to increase with time. Initially he could work through the pain, but no home remedy seemed to abate it.

By the third week in October, Ernie was visiting Annie and her family. Ethel was working at the Arcade in Richmond, Surrey. Harry had gotten tired of London and wanted to return to the country. Bryan was out of a job and talked about going to South Africa; he was home sick under a doctor's care. Elsie turned 20 and was still at home keeping house and taking care of her parents and sibling(s). Mary Hannah stated she was simply worn out.

On 29 October 1902, John Barrington House was transported to the hospital in Bristol. The surgeon in Bristol confirmed the Ilminster doctor's diagnosis of cancer. An operation had to be performed immediately to remove the blockage, but it would not prolong his life. The cancer was identified as being in both his sides. Aunt Jennie and Uncle Jim White offered to act on Mary Hannah's behalf and to do whatever was necessary for John B. Mary Hannah was at her wit's end and felt the situation was hopeless as John B. just continued to get weaker and there was no cure for cancer.

Ernie made it to Bristol on 2 November before the operation which was scheduled for later in the month. Ethel had planned to come, but couldn't get away. Uncle Jim White, true to his word, paid all the bills and did everything possible for John Barrington and Mary Hannah. John B. was reported suffering terribly.

On 12 December 1902, John Barrington House, at age 57, died in the Bristol Infirmary in the sub-district of St. Augustine in the city and county of Bristol; Mary Hannah, his sister Jane, and his brother-in-law Jim White are known to have been in attendance; his son Ernest is also believed to have been there. His death certificate lists the cause of death as "Carcinoma Hepitis Asthenia," certified by E.H.T. Black, M.B.. John Barrington's occupation was listed as "Sanitation Inspector of Ilminster, Somerset." James White registered the death on 15 December 1902 in Bristol.

Later in December, John Barrington was buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery in Ilminster. Mary Hannah was too distraught to attend the funeral and remained at home in bed, probably with Elsie in attendance. The remainder of the children, except for Jack who was in the States, were almost certainly there; as were Aunt Sallie, Aunt Jennie, Uncle William, and Aunt Lizzie (Elizabeth). Aunt Eliza Cuff had taken seriously ill sometime in November and was not in attendance. Many of John B.'s friends from Tatworth, Chard, Queen Camel and Ilminster were in attendance. According to daughter Ethel:

The coffin was really beautiful, polished inlaid oak with brass fittings lined with white satin studded with silver buttons. We could not possibly have laid him to rest in anything more beautiful and although there was such a scarcity of flowers, those that covered his dear coffin were lovely. Especially the larger one sent by a few of his friends in town.

Uncle Jim White had not skimped on any cost.

Before his death, John Barrington had appointed Mr. Roberts, a long-time lodger, as executor of his estate – much to the chagrin of at least his brother William. His Will left everything (less than \$150.00) to Mary Hannah. Ethel handled all the thank-you notes and most, if not all, of the arrangements. (*Writer's Note: Ethel's letter of 8 January 1903 to her brother Jack in the U.S. describes the funeral and accompanying family interactions from Ethel's perspective. The entire letter is contained in Ethel's story. His Will may be found in the Death section of the House Family Vital Records.*)

In February 1903, Mary Hannah admitted she was still "quite taken down;" she felt she would join John B. in a short time. She was still awaiting John B.'s affairs to be settled; John B. was only insured for five pounds; there were many bills to pay; she thought she was alright through the middle of the month; she was living on what the boarders paid her. She could keep the house if she could pay the rent. The boys have said they would help, but Bryan has been at home and out of work for six months; Harry was out of work but expecting a job soon; Ernie will help; and Clifford will also after he completes his apprenticeship in April. It had "been a sad, sad Xmas." Mary H. was torqued at Aunt Cuff who had "plenty of money," but didn't help out. Aunt Clark (Sarah) promised to see she was cared for; but she had herself to look after. Mary H. had written her brother-in-law Gustavus Kottgen for help but he was out of the country traveling. Jack had sent money home and it was most appreciated.

By April, things were pretty much the same for Mary H.; she was still looking for money but apparently had paid the bills and made the rent. Bryan was still at home; Aunt Sally wanted him to go abroad and stop being a burden on his mother. Aunt Sally lived in a nice house close to the station in Exeter. Clifford had gotten a job close to Ethel. Harry had gone back to his previous boss until something better came along. Ernie was getting uncomfortable with his job. The electric tram (streetcar) had started running from Hampton Court to Richmond Bridge.

In June Mary H. started writing all her letters on stationary with a black border. It seemed to her everything was against her. Ethel was at Kingston on Thames, Surrey and trying to get her health back. Bryan had at last gotten a job. Her lodger Mr. Roberts got married in May and she was down to one lodger. Great changes in the weather didn't help. She missed John B. more and more with each passing day. She told Jack her thoughts were with them every day; she only wants to see her namesake Mary Sue. Her brother Bryan wrote a nice letter; she immediately wrote back a request for money. She and Elsie had just finished spring house cleaning; they both frequently go to John B.'s grave; she hopes to put a railing around the grave shortly to make it more private.

In July Ethel spent her holidays with Annie and children. Clifford was at Raynes Park near Ethel. Harry was at Glastonbury very near Edie and Tom Hecks. Sometimes Ethel, Harry, and Clifford got together for outings. August found Mary H. still "very distraught;" she doesn't understand the absence of letters from the U.S.; she hasn't been able to get another lodger; and money was getting tight. Elsie was home, but she wanted to be on her own; she promised John B. before his death she would take care of her mother; Mary H. said her health was bad and she couldn't let Elsie leave. Aunt Jennie (Jane) and Uncle Jim had been for a 10 day visit; they paid her rent (3 pounds and 15 shillings) and asked if the boys had helped any; they took her to see Aunt Sallie (Sarah) and they had a most enjoyable time.

In August, Mary H. lambasted Jack for not writing; she "needs a line to relieve her anxiety;" she thought "she had been forsaken in her hour of sadness, sorrow, trouble and grief;" she "wishes they could only experience her feelings and would write or something." Her throat has been bothering her; she had a doctor look at it; he said it wasn't cancer but it was several year's growth. Mr. Trump died and left Aunt Sallie the greater part of his furniture.

By December 1903, Mary H. had stopped writing on stationary with a black border. Mary H. has had another trial; Bryan had married the girl he had been engaged to for sometime; he also had a good job in Taunton with Scarlett and Sons Wine and Spirits Merchants. Bryan traveled for them and has done well. Ernie was at home, out of a job. Harry and Clifford will be home at Christmas. Gustavus Kottgen and Jim White said they will make up any deficiencies in her maintenance; Ernie said he would help also – as soon as he finds a job. Her boarder of six years was engaged but says he won't leave for another year.

In January 1904, Mary Hannah was informed of the birth of her second grandson – Jack Barrington – to Jack and Olive in Greenville, Texas. Mary H. was most pleased, particularly with the name. Mary H. apparently tried to write to Jack in February, but the letter was returned for insufficient postage; Elsie promised it wouldn't happen again. Elsie had a gentleman getting very serious; Mary H. was wary.

By 15 March 1904, Mary H. had entertained a series of visitors; Aunt Jennie and Uncle Jim had been down for a couple of weeks; Cliff was home for a week between jobs and Ernie came home and was "doing a little something." Mary H. had put a railing around John B.'s grave; it cost "25 shillings and 5 for putting them down;" all the children promised to contribute toward it; Mary was very pleased with the effect. She was still having problems with her eyes and couldn't write as often as she would like; her throat was not much better either; she didn't want to run up a doctor bill if it could be avoided; she wouldn't go to a hospital since being in one with John B. Harry was still at Glasenbury. The family at home often sat by the fire and talked about old times.

By early May, Mary H. had received a long letter from Jack; it was most appreciated. Bryan, his wife and new daughter Edith visited on 6 May for her 60th birthday. Mary had sent a birthday card to Aunt Jennie whose birthday was the 7th; she had also been to South Chard to see Aunt Cuff who looked 10 years younger although her tumor was larger and continued to grow; a most "remarkable human;" "she lays in bed the whole day long." Harry and Clifford had both cycled home. Elsie's "mash" (boy friend) was a Welshman. Mary H. looked forward to Ethel's summer visit and to Aunt Jennie and Uncle Jim at Whitsuntide. (*Writer's Note: Whitsun is a corruption of White Sunday. Whitsuntide is the week beginning with Whitsunday or Pentecost – the seventh Sunday and 50th day after Easter. Whit weekend is usually the first holiday weekend of the year with any hope of decent weather, and a fine Whit Monday – now renamed the Late Spring Bank Holiday – will see families flocking to the coast or countryside.*)

By June the weather was hot and Mary H. was despondent; she felt she had "many worries and no one to help or advise her;" money was tight again even though she had picked up a third lodger, a young lad of 19. Ernie was home – out of a job. Bryan stopped by on his monthly round and was pleased with his father's gravesite. Mary H. was still put-out that her brothers in the U.S. had never sent her any money; she didn't want to have to ask Jim White or Gustavus Kottgen for any more. Elsie went to Wales for a week to meet her boyfriend's parents. Mary H. met Aunt Sally and Aunt Nell at Seaton for a day's holiday.

In December 1904, Mary H. was again on Jack's case for not writing, but she did thank Olive for her "nice long letter." Because Annie had been sick, Mary H. went up to help; it was a long, cold journey; the cold settled in her back and legs on the way home and she had not been out since; she was an "invalid" and Elsie was nursing her. Ethel and Ernie were both looking well; Ethel was going to spend a few months with Annie. Harry, after being home for seven weeks, had started a new job in Bristol. Bryan had not been home except for his monthly rounds. Cliff was doing fine in Wibelscombe and hoped to be home for Christmas. Aunt Sarah, in Pinhoe, had taken a clergyman as a lodger; he paid

well. Uncle William worked for Small Berry Street as their Manager of Farm and Dairy. Aunt Cuff was believed to be about the same.

Over Christmas, Mary Hannah had one lodger away for 10 days and the other two for three days. Uncles Bryan and Thomas were still not writing to either Mary Hannah or her sister Sarah. In sum, things were staying about the same.

The year 1905 started off without any major changes. Elsie took sick in early April and required a doctor's care; she went to Aunt Cuff in South Chard for a rest. Mary H. was "miserable" having Elsie away. Ethel spent three months at Annie's helping her recover. Bryan and his wife were expecting their second child. Harry was home again out of work. "Dear Cliff" was expected home for Easter Sunday. By July, Harry had gotten a job with a Mr. Coats in Crewkerne. Mary H. and Elsie began to rub on one another and Elsie went away for a fortnight. Mary H. looked around at all her children out of the nest and felt her "time is drawing on and how soon I shall be forgotten." The summer had been hot; the hay was all cured; they were starting to cut oats; "harvest won't be long about." Sarah had gone to London on a five week holiday; Mary H. was very jealous. Mary H. went to see Aunt Cuff; she was immense; her tumor had gotten huge; it was larger every time she visited. Nothing had been heard of Aunt Nell.

By November 1905, Mary H. had finally started her long promised letter to Jack. Her throat continued to bother her and caused trouble to others in the house (Elsie and lodgers). Aunt Nell (Mrs. Lawrence) visited Mary H. Harry left Crewkerne and went to a new job in Sussex. Ethel got a good job in Burrough Farnham in Surrey. Cliff was in Bristol traveling for a big firm of grocers. Annie and Leslie were still at North Town, Woldingham, Surrey. Bryan was still in Taunton and his hands were full now with two little girls. Financially Mary H. was finally beginning to make ends meet; the absence of children at home (except Elsie) had tipped the scales; however, she was still distraught; she felt it had "been a hard year;" she thought she would have to give up everything; she wanted to keep a home for herself so she wouldn't have to live with strangers. Mary Hannah hung another guilt trip on Jack; she wanted to see his face at least once more before she died; she still hasn't heard from her brothers, but loves Olive's long letters. Jack had been away so long that Clifford could barely remember him; Clifford wrote Jack that Bryan, Ernie and Harry were not helping with Mary H.'s support but that he knew Jack had been good to her. Annie's daughter Vera had broken her leg. Everyone was looking forward to Christmas and a break from the routine.

Evidently, Mary H.'s last letter to Jack pushed him over the edge – or more likely Olive forced the issue; Jack finally wrote his mother in late December that he would be coming home for a visit in the summer of the next year. Mary Hannah was beside herself in happiness; she told everyone far and wide that Jack was coming home. Mary H. had a quiet but happy Christmas; Ethel, Elsie and Cliff were at home; they toasted "all the absent ones." The day after Christmas, they went to see Aunt Clark and Aunt Lawrence in Pinhoe; they wanted to stay longer but Ethel had to get back to work. Bryan didn't make it for Christmas, but said he would come afterwards. Ernie stayed at the Dodson's in Islemouth; Harry went to Annie's. Aunt Harriman came to visit. Aunt Jennie and

Uncle Jim were due for their annual first week in January visit as they have done ever since John B.'s death.

On 18 February 1906, Mary Hannah's grand daughter count went up to six (Jack – 2, Annie – 2, and Bryan – 2) with the birth of Ann A'Dale to Jack and Olive in Greenville, Texas. Mary Hannah had suggested Kathleen Hilda as "a pretty name" but acknowledged Jack and Olive must choose their own name. The name chosen came from Jack's Mississippi experience where Annandale was a magnificent plantation in Madison County. Mary H. was "delighted at the No. 2 surprise."

In May Clifford wrote to Jack to find out what boat he was sailing on; so the paper could be checked for arrival date. Clifford was sick in bed with "Ergsipelas" but was expected to be about shortly. Ernie wrote Jack that he was "sick of England;" could not get ahead working in a public house; wanted to join Jack when he returned to the U.S.

In July 1906 the prodigal son returned, amid all hails and tribulations; it had been 12 years. Ethel met Jack at the boat; recognized him immediately; he looked just like Harry. Jack had safely arrived but was a little worse for the wear; tired and not feeling too well. Ethel dropped Olive a note saying Jack had arrived but she should expect a spoiled husband upon his return. All had wanted Olive and the children to come too.

The weather was "lovely" and Mary Hannah was ecstatic. The front door at home was a turnstile as visitors came and went every day. Bryan, Harry, Clifford and Aunt Clark came the first Sunday Jack was home; another Aunt and Uncle the following. Ethel came down for 10 days; Ernie made it down also; as did Annie. Jack did not recognize his brothers as they had all grown so much. Elsie took an immediate liking to her oldest brother and was one of his biggest fans. Olive had sent presents with Jack for everyone; all were surprised and absolutely delighted. Mary Hannah responded with a very gracious letter thanking Olive for letting Jack come and for the gifts. One disappointment for Jack upon arriving in Ilminster was the realization that his mother and Elsie had a housekeeper; Jack's wife Olive had three small children, one a babe in arms, and she did all her own work; Jack's monthly checks to Ilminster came to an abrupt halt.

Jack left Ilminster on the 20th for a couple of days in London with Harry and relatives. Mary Hannah and Annie went to see Bryan in Taunton on the 23rd; Annie missed her train home that morning and had to take one at midnight. Aunt Cuff got very ill the day after Jack left; several of Jack's friends stopped by to cheer-up Mary Hannah. Ernie went to help a Mr. Raymond for the day. Mary Hannah received a "sweet piece of Oailin (sic) work" from Olive on the 23rd; loved it. Jack sailed for home the last week in August; both Bryan and Elsie sent farewell cards to his ship, the Empress of Ireland, at the Liverpool Docks. Unfortunately Jack missed seeing Aunt Nell, Aunt Harriman and Edie and Tom Hecks. Aunt Nell had had an eye operation. Elsie was quite depressed since Jack left; somewhat recovered when her boy friend Rex returned on the 1st of September. Clifford was in the Market Place in Frome on the 8th of October.

Nothing is known of Mary Hannah or her family's activities in 1907 except that Clifford was in Seaton on the 20th of May "having a jolly time," and in Exmouth on the 2nd of November.

Apparently sometime early in 1908, Mary Hannah released Elsie to tend to Aunt Jane (Jennie) in Weston Super Mare, a resort town on the Bristol Channel 28 miles south west of Bristol. Elsie quickly got her fill of Aunt Jane and by the end of April had taken a job as companion to another lady in town. Elsie reported that Mary Hannah seemed so sad and tired of life; worried her; shouldn't be that way at Mary H.'s time of life; wished she could have stayed home to take care of her, but there was simply no work in Ilminster.

By May 1908, Jack had written home to tell Mary Hannah that he was a qualified Veterinary Surgeon; Mary H. spread the word; all were elated to have a doctor in the family. Aunt Sarah cautioned Jack to save his money for when he was old; regrets not going to her brother Bryan when his wife died; still hasn't heard from brother Tom. Ernie was at home out of work again; Mary H. reported to have little time for writing with Elsie gone. Ethel was still sick with the influenza she caught back in the winter; doctor told her to give up work and get some fresh air; said it was her lungs; wanted to come home but knew mother couldn't afford it.

On 4 June 1908, Eliza Barrington House Cuff died, at age 56, in her home (St. Margaret's House) in South Chard. She was buried in the Tatworth Cemetery on the 10th of June along side her husband John. Bryan and Ernest apparently took Mary Hannah to the funeral. Eliza's will arranged for Mary Hannah to receive the interest on 200 pounds until her death, at which time the 200 pounds would be split among Annie, Ethel and Elsie. Mary H. was very upset at the funeral; brought back too many memories; and grieved for "our dear one," after so many years of suffering. Mary H. would like to have Elsie with her but Elsie was very happy with a nice lady in Weston. She was awaiting new potatoes from the garden; had to eat old ones as new potatoes were "two pence half penny a pound" in the store. Ernest was still at home and getting to be a financial strain; Mary H. expected Ernest to go to Weston, which should "pull him up."

In September 1908 Harry took his summer vacation and got a cold in the bargain. Ethel had to give up working and went to Aunt Jane in Weston to get a change of air and to let her lungs clean out. Elsie, also at Weston, was good company for Ethel. Harry was now talking of joining Jack in the U.S.

In December, Aunt Sarah asked Mary H. (Pollie) to come for a visit; Mary H. couldn't make it as Aunt Jennie (Jane) was coming. She expected Ethel to remain with Annie in Wales for the winter; her health seemed to be improving. The weather had been more like spring. Sarah still could not get her brothers in the U.S. to answer her letters. Harry hoped to make it home for Christmas. Elsie went to Taunton and visited Bryan and his family. Bryan now had a son who was a "bonnie lad." Bryan promised to drive up to see Mary H. for a day. Mrs. Lawrence (Aunt Nell) was spending Christmas with Sarah (Aunt Clark).

By February 1910, Ethel was back in Ilminster under Mary H.'s care. Annie and her two girls had been down for a week. With the combination of Ethel sick and two little ones running around was too much for Mary H. – it "chewed her up." Annie wanted to take Ethel to Colwyn Bay in North Wales with her in April or May, provided Ethel was well enough. It had been a long trying winter; had a big three-day storm; heavy rains and wind. Mary H. felt pretty good during the cold weather; always on the go with something to do; however, sometimes she felt she should just give up. Mary H. was still after Olive to get her brother Bryan's children to write to her.

By the late spring of 1910, Ethel's condition had deteriorated to the point where Mary H. questioned if she would ever be well. Ethel was started on a "plasmon diet" and seemed to be getting a little better. The lodgers were most kind and concerned for Ethel. Harry was apparently home again and put a shed up in the garden so Ethel could sit outside and get some fresh air. Ethel had a few visitors from Chard which cheered her up a little. Mary H. was feeling fairly well, but frequently just felt run down.

Clifford was more optimistic about Ethel in November. Evidently Ethel had been moved to Newquay for further treatment and Clifford thought it had done her a world of good; thought with a little care she would get well. Ethel's care had been a bit expense to the family; particularly Mary H., Jack and Clifford; Cliff was "stony broke," but would continue to support as long as he was working. Annie heard of Ethel's improvement and planned to visit after the New Year.

On 24 March 1911, Mary Hannah wrote Olive and apologized for her silence since Olive's "nice, kind letter." She blamed her silence on Ethel's health; it was not better; in fact she was getting weaker in spite of the sanitarium care; sure it was a hopeless case; broke her heart; now much pain in her body and "everything she takes passes like water." Since bringing Ethel back home Mary Hannah's lodgers have left – fearing for their own health. Mary H. felt she had to give up the house, but could not do so until Ethel's situation was settled. Mary H. hadn't seen Bryan's children for months; still hasn't heard anything from her brothers Bryan and Thomas, but Aunt Sarah did get a letter from Thomas's son Claud.

On 1 May 1911, Florence Ethel House, age 35, died in her mother's home in Ilminster. She was buried in the Ilminster Cemetery – probably near her father John Barrington House. Four months later on 3 September, Clifford Roy House, age 25, married Annie (Nancy) Evelyn Colenso, also age 25, in Penzance, Cornwall. On 14 October 1911, Jack and Olive had a third daughter – Elsie Mildred House; the name was probably derived from Jack's youngest sister (Elsie) and the Mildred, of course, was Olive's middle name. On 29 April 1912, Ernest House, age 31, married Sarah Jane Chapple, age 26, in Taunton, Somerset.

Sometime after Ethel's death, Mary Hannah gave up her cottage in Ilminster and started making the rounds among her children, family and friends. She probably went first to her sister Sarah's in Pinhoe, but by the summer of 1912 she had spent a fair amount of time at her son Bryan's in Taunton. She was not particularly happy at Bryan's with four small

children in the house and Bryan had been gone most of the time on business. Elsie was nearby, but she wasn't free much of the time either. By late summer, Mary H. had gone to Annie's in Barnstaple. Annie and Leslie had just left Wales and taken a restaurant at Barnstaple; Annie's children were a little older than Bryan's. After getting married, Ernie took up farming – to everyone's surprise; "quite a reformed fellow." By October, Clifford reported doing well, as soon as a broken arm healed, and expected his first child shortly. Harry was working in Christchurch in Hampshire; he was also getting pretty serious about a particular young lady. It had been a bad summer for farmers; too much water; severe loss of crops in the midlands. England had a radical government and the political climate was heated; trouble also brewing in political matters; inlands and its Home Rich bill and the national insurance.

Mary Hannah was still with Annie in Barnstaple in November; she had been there five or six weeks. Her mail from Jack had finally caught up with her and she was very pleased. She and Annie had been busy cleaning the cottage; it had been neglected for too long. She expected Elsie to come for a week. Ernest's first daughter had arrived on 9 October. Harry's intended, a Miss Fisher, kept her up on all the Ilminster news. She was keeping fairly well but the cold wet weather gets to her; often lays in bed and thinks about the old times. Jack's family was often the subject when Mary H. and Annie went for walks.

On 6 December 1912, Elizabeth House Harriman died, at age 70, in Chard. Mary H. went to her funeral in Chard; all Elizabeth's children were there; had a "great number wreaths and crosses;" flowers were beautiful; four nephews were pall-bearers: Ernest, Bryan and two of Uncle William's sons. Weather in Barnstaple had been mild with a good deal of rain; very relaxing to Mary H.; everyone said it was normal. Annie and Leslie's restaurant was not making it; they had decided to give it up in March and return to Wales. Mary H. would not go with them; she wanted something closer to Taunton where both Elsie and Bryan were located. Elsie was at Fairlawn near Taunton taking care of two little girls for a nice couple. Mary H. lamented how her children were so scattered across the land and all engrossed in their own lives.

On 2 February 1913, Mary Hannah lost her second child; her oldest son John (Jack) William House died of pneumonia, at the age of 39, in Greenville, Texas. Everyone was shocked and hurt; Mary Hannah was devastated. On 15 May 1913 Olive, Jack's widow, lost her last born – Elsie Mildred House – in Greenville, Texas.

In April 1914, Mary Hannah was staying with Harry at 25 High Street in Christchurch. Harry had apparently just moved in and Mary H. had been busy dodging painters while trying to get some spring cleaning done; both were recovering from colds. Harry's intended, Nell, arrived on the 9th to spend her holiday with Harry.

On 25 April 1914, Elsie Hilda House, age 31, married Herbert Henry Sharman, age 26, in Walcot, Bath. Henry was an accountant of a music business and reported to be very clever at music. Mary H. made Elsie a 5 o'clock tea cloth for a wedding present. Elsie and Henry spent a good portion of their honeymoon visiting with Mary H. and Harry.

Olive's letter of 8 August finally was received by Mary H. on the 23rd; Elsie and Mary H. had been talking about the possibility of a letter from Olive the night before and were astounded when the letter arrived. Olive had provided Mary H. a picture of herself and the three children; Mary H. immediately focused in on Mary Sue. Aunt Sarah had also been making the rounds; she visited Mary H. and Harry for two weeks; then went to see Clifford.

World War I had started and everyone was worried about what lay in store for them. Several big firms had been completely broken up when their employees answered their country's call-to-arms.

On 27 July 1915, Harry Clark House, age 31, married Elizabeth (Nell) Eliza Fisher, age 35, in St. Giles, Northampton. All of Mary Hannah's surviving children were now married.

In the latter part of October 1915, Mary H. had just completed a grand tour of family and friends and had a "lovely holiday." Because Mary Hannah had been quite ill the latter part of the previous year and then made her rounds, she hadn't written Olive; she also hadn't heard from Olive in months. The terrible sinkings in the Atlantic had also interrupted mail from the U.S. Mary H. had apparently chosen Harry and Nell's house in Christchurch as home, or at least to winter over in. Bryan came down to spend a few days and recovered from an illness. The weather was delightful on the English south coast. She often went for walks; Bryan and Harry had walked over to Highcliff to see Annie one day. Everyone was concerned about the war and "the raids on London every week makes one think what will come next." (*Writer's Note: probably German dirigible attacks; airplane attacks came later in WWI*) Mary Hannah lamented about "the poor suffering soldiers out at the front;" made her heart ache to read about it.

By the end of 1916, the effects of WWI on the English people was all encompassing; food and supplies were scarce, if available at all; all looked to their gardens as the only sure source of food; seemingly every family had members "at the front" and the House family was no exception. Ernie left for France sometime around March 1916; Annie and Elsie's husbands had also been called to war; and Annie's son Tom was scheduled to be called up in April 1917.

In December 1916, Mary Hannah was either "still with" or "back with" Harry and Nell at Keishama, Douglas Avenue, Christchurch, Hants. Because Harry was just recovering from a six month illness, Nell and Mary H. had had their hands full. Aunt Sarah had been sick and evidently came to Harry's for nursing; she was quite well by December. Mary H. reported that all the family were well, "pr. usual;" but everyone worried about their husbands and sons. Mary H. wrote to Olive and asked how Olive's son Barry was doing; she enclosed a separate letter to Mary Sue; she requested a yearly picture of Olive and the children. Since many boats were being torpedoed, Mary H. was never certain how many letters Olive had written.

Harry and Nell had had a son – Trevor – and all were well. Aunt Sarah, although well, still suffered from rheumatic gout in her joints; but “must expect some pain in her old age.” It was a “miserable time” for Ernest’s wife Sarah and their four children as it was also for Annie and Elsie. Mary H. was frequently depressed; the sharp cold easterly winds didn’t help. She wondered when the terrible war would end; felt “life hardly seems worth living for.” Annie and family were still in Colwyn Bay, North Wales. Elsie stayed in her home at 23 Kipling Avenue in Bath, Somerset. Not a “jolly” Christmas, but “must be as happy as possible and thank God we are spared many hard troubles.”

(Writer’s Note: There are no letters for 1917 through 1924 available to the Writer. Ernest House, Leslie Green, and Herbert Sharman survived WWI and returned home; if Tom Green went to war, he also survived and returned home. William Brewer lost two sons in the War – William Brewer Jr. and Gordon.)

Mary Hannah apparently spent the latter war years and immediately thereafter (1917 - 1920) with Elsie in Bath. She certainly took extended trips to visit her other children, except perhaps Annie in North Wales; but she always returned to Bath and Elsie as her base of operation. Herbert didn’t return home from the war until December 1920 or January 1921. He had been sent to the “East and Palestine” where English forces were needed after the end of hostilities in Europe in November 1918. She most probably left Elsie’s just before Herbert returned home and probably moved in with Clifford’s family in Hayle, Cornwall.

Mary Hannah may have been at Elsie’s when she learned of the death of Jack’s wife, Olive, on 24 April 1920 in Greenville, Texas at the age of 39. If so, the news must have been absolutely devastating to both women. Following Olive’s death, she received news of the death of Olive’s father, William Maurice Williams, on 27 November 1920 in Greenville, Texas at the age of 79.

While at Elsie’s, Mary Hannah became friends with the neighbors and the postman. In fact, the postman thought she received so many letters because she wrote so many to pass the time away. The memory of “Mrs. House” with Elsie’s Kipling Avenue neighbors would, over 10 years later, permit the delivery of a letter from Jack’s second daughter, Ann A’Dale, to Elsie at her new home on Longfellow Avenue in Bath.

It is not known where Mary Hannah was located when she received word of the marriage of Jack’s son, Jack (Barry) Barrington House, to Rausilyn Keith on 2 February 1924 in Greenville, Texas. However, she may well have been at Clifford’s in Hayle, Cornwall. Sometime during this period, Clifford moved his family out of Trevear Villa and into a much larger abode, The Bungalow, about three streets higher up the hill. Clifford’s in-laws, the Colenosos, either moved into or remained at Trevear Villa. Clifford’s daughter Stella, in particular, enjoyed having both grandmothers living together close by.

In mid October 1925, Mary Hannah received a letter, probably from Jack’s second daughter Ann A’Dale, announcing Mary Sue’s marriage on 6 August 1925 to Ben Benton Wolfe in Greenville, Texas. Mary H. was pleased with the news and sent the letter on to

Vera Green who was living with her parents in Chorley Golf Club, Chorley, Lancashire. Mary H. was living at Trevear Villa in Hayle, Cornwall with Mr. and Mrs. Colenso, the parents of Clifford's wife; she had a nice room to herself. Mary had been feeling poorly; the cough had returned and she had a bad cold; her eyes were much weaker; in sum, her spirit was good, but her strength was weak. Mary Hannah felt her "visiting trips" had come to an end; it had become too difficult to get about by herself; she knew she must settle down and this was troublesome.

Mary Hannah told Ann A'Dale she was pleased to see "them so united" (Mary Sue, Barry, and Ann A'Dale); she knew their father and mother would be so pleased with them. She also told Ann A'Dale that her Aunts and Uncles were scattered; some doing fairly well and some not so well as she would wish. She knew that Ann A'Dale missed both Barry and Mary Sue, but she shouldn't worry because she would "follow in their footsteps soon" (get married). Mary Hannah also wanted a letter from Mary Sue telling her all about the wedding.

In April 1926, Mary Hannah was still living with the Colensos in the Trevear Villa on Foundry Hill, Hayle, Cornwall. Winter had been dreadful; cold enough to kill a person. Mary H. knew she was "no longer young;" her memory fails and she could not get around like she used to; it was difficult to write but she loved getting letters from all. Mary H. decided she would visit Elsie and Herbert in their home at 23 Kipling Avenue in Bath for a few weeks; the Bath waters would do her "rheumatics good." Clifford was doing well in business but he was working long hours. Mary H. frequently got letters from Annie's oldest daughter Vera and she passed all of the letters from Ann A'Dale and Mary Sue on to Vera. Mary H. promised to get some recent pictures of the family and send them to Ann A'Dale; she was waiting for Ann A'Dale's promised picture to arrive. Mary H. sent her love to Ann A'Dale and all her family but especially to her "dear grandmother (Rachal Susan Williams) who is a blessing to them all." If the weather was good, Mary Hannah tried to take a short walk each day.

In January 1927, Mary Hannah was still living with Mr. and Mrs. Colenso in Hayle, Cornwall. On the 27th she wrote a short note to Ann A'Dale; she hoped all were well; hoped to get good news from her soon; and wanted all to write. Mary Hannah couldn't remember when she had last heard from Vera or Marjorie, Annie's two daughters; didn't even get a line from them at Christmas.

(Writer's Note: This short note to Ann A'Dale is the last known correspondence from Mary Hannah Clark House.)

Sometime later in 1927, Mary Hannah's health began to seriously deteriorate. Because her 10 shillings a week income didn't come close to covering her doctor bills, all her children pitched in to make ends meet. She left Trevear Villa and went to stay with Elsie's family in Bath where she could get the care she needed to get through each day.

How long Mary Hannah stayed at Elsie's in Bath is not known. However, she was probably still there when Jack's second daughter Ann A'Dale, at age 22, married Harold

Lee Briggs, age 21, on 1 September 1928 in Greenville, Texas. Mary Hannah was also probably at Elsie's when she learned of Bryan's death on 25 July 1928.

Sometime toward the end of 1928 or early 1929, Mary Hannah left Elsie's and went to live with Harry in Christchurch. She was almost certainly there when, on 12 July 1929, Mary Sue House Wolfe gave birth to a daughter, Patsy Ruth – Mary Hannah's first known great grandchild. Later the same year, after caring for all of Jack and Olive's children until they married, Rachel Susan Roper Williams died, at the age of 82, on 6 December 1929 in Greenville, Texas.

Mary Hannah's health continued to deteriorate. Sometime in late 1929 or early 1930, she left Harry's and went to live with Ernest (Ernie) on his farm in Bradfield, near Reading, Berkshire. She was there in late October 1930 when she fell and suffered a severe stroke. She was coherent and could understand all she was told; she especially enjoyed letters from her children and grandchildren to be read to her. The doctor gave her no hope of recovery – saying she had only a very limited amount of time remaining. Mary Hannah Clark House died on 17 November 1930, at the age of 86. She was apparently buried near Ernie's home in Bradfield, Berkshire; at least the funeral was conducted there. Ernest, Harry and Clifford, realizing the funeral was probably the last time the three of them would be together, had their photo taken together. It is not known whether Annie or Elsie attended the funeral.

Our story will continue with the children of John Barrington and Mary Hannah as the seventh generation.

Pictures of John Barrington, Mary Hannah, and some of their children can be found in the House Family Picture Album - England in a separate document. Upon viewing a photograph of John Barrington House, Barrington Lee Brown, one of Ann A'Dale's grandsons, was struck by John's resemblance to Ulysses S. Grant.

(Writer's Note:

A. Little is known of the lives of John Barrington House's children (other than Jack and Harry) and their families after about 1920. What is known is constructed primarily from three sources:

First, from the knowledge and information possessed by Colin Martin House, the only grandchild of Harry Clark House.

Second, the visits to England by four of Jack House's descendants in the latter half of the 20th Century. These four were:

*Jack Barrington House, Jack's son;
Ann A'Dale House Briggs, Jack's second daughter;
Bobby Benton Wolfe, Jack's oldest daughter's son (the first to visit in the 1950's while stationed with the U.S. Air Force in Europe); and
Barrington Lee Brown, a great grandson of Jack's (one of the sons of Ann A'Dale's daughter Penelope) while attending a Political Science course at the University of London in 1986.*

Third, correspondence between Ann A'Dale House Briggs and Jack's siblings – Elsie, Harry and Clifford – as well as some of their children.

B. The Gambart connection with the House family is most intriguing. Ernest Gambart (1814 – 1902) was born in Belgium and became one of the leading print publishers in England during the mid-Victorian period. His engravings trade with top English and Continental artists was most noteworthy. In 1898, he was made a Member of the Royal Victorian Order. One of his four wives, probably the last, appears to have been a favorite cousin (Annie) of Mary Hannah. Ernest and Annie Gambart adopted Mary Hannah's youngest sister Annie, a very attractive young lady. Annie Clark Gambart subsequently married Gustav Koettgen (Kottgen); had at least three children – Ernest, Lily (Lyra Adolphina Emmy) and Daisy; died at age 31 on 19 June 1880. Mary Hannah's sister Sarah served as house manager for the Koettgens several years after her sister Annie's death. Daisy became a well known concert pianist and reportedly knew the King of Belgium well. After the deaths of Gustav and Ernest, Daisy Koettgen Doehaerd and Lily inherited the family business and formed a charitable trust to – upon their deaths – promote education in the commercial field. Harry Clark House's grandson, Colin Martin House, received funds from the Trust to pay for his education in the field of finance.

C. To the American reader, the English Monetary system prior to 1971 is more than a little confusing; this is probably true for an increasing number of English readers as well. Colin Martin House, of the ninth generation and a retired banker, provides a succinct overview addressing the problem below.)

English Money or £ s d

Prior to the introduction of the current decimal system on 15th February 1971

Introduction and historical background: Coinage tends to change over time with the requirements of government but more importantly commerce. The system of exchanging good for services, or barter was common in the distant past, but English money traces its roots back to Anglo-Saxon times in the eighth century when King Offa of Mercia (a area roughly on the east of England) introduced a silver coin called the ‘penny’ which just to confuse every one is written as a ‘d’, the ‘d’ comes from the Roman coin ‘denarius’. In those days, and indeed up to the times of George III, people who had a lot of coin often had it melted down and made into plates etc which they, due to the lack of banks, could keep on display in their homes and use, if they need cash they would take one along to the nearest mint and have it turned back into coin. It happened that the amount of silver by weight in the early penny was 1/240th of a pound. Thus a relationship was established with the coin and £ which persisted.

[1] Coins: The penny later became made of copper in 1797 and then of bronze in 1860. It was divided up into farthings, 1/4d, the halfpenny [pronounced hay’p’ni] 1/2d, there were half farthings once! In the middle ages a skilled mason building castles in Wales and subject to attack by the locals would earn about 5d a week. In more modern times ‘spending a penny’ referred to the cost of a public toilet.

Pennies were grouped into coins for convenience, there was a three pence piece [pronounced thruppence] and made in silver till the 1930’s, and a sixpence made in silver (in slang a tanner). To gauge value a sixpence would have been a tip / gratuity in a tea shop in the 1930’s.

The Shilling was the next important coin, was made in silver, and worth 12d.= 1/. It was the more important coin for trade calculations as it would have been unusual in the times before the later part of the Twentieth Century for bills to run up to £’s. There were coins of larger denomination a two shilling coin called the ‘Florin’ = 2/- or in slang two bob, a halfcrown worth two shillings and six pence = 2/6, a seldom used coin the crown = 5/-. Halfcrowns where called in slang half a dollar. Out of use were marks at 13/4, angles at 6/8 and nobles at 10/-. The ‘s’ for shilling is said to come from the Roman Sesterce coin.

The Pound £ had a gold coin called a sovereign, and there was for a while a ‘Guinea’ worth one pound and one shilling = £1/1/-

[2] Expressing prices:

Something costing two pounds ten shillings and six pence would be shown as £2/10/6, a bunch of bananas at one shilling and three pence a pound weight [lb. being the short hand

for a pound] might be shown 1/3 lb. A pint of beer in the Lord Napier Greenwich – Bryan House's pub – cost 4d a pint, so you would get 3 pints for a shilling or 60 for a pound or 180 pints for the cost of a pint in the Lord Napier today! [London prices are around £3 a pint]. Prices were almost always in coin groups so 7/6 is seven shillings and six pence, that is three halfcrowns; 3/9 is a halfcrown, a shilling and threepence. Doctors and other professional people liked to send out their bills in guineas, so that 'Two Gns' or guineas as it would be written is £2/2/-

So you could get the sum: - £2/10/6

$$\begin{array}{r} 1/3 \\ \underline{-} \\ 4 \\ =\underline{\underline{\text{£2/12/1}}} \end{array}$$

That is $6+3+4=13$ d divided by 12 gives 1s 1d; 10s+1s+1 carried forward = 12/- Dead easy! No wonder all the German spies dropped over here during the war soon got caught.

[3] Wages: In the nineteenth century £250 a year would have been a lot of money – say a doctors income. Farm workers would have got between one pound and one pound ten shillings a week at best and been laid off once the harvest was in. So I expect that John Barrington House was only getting about £20/-/- or £30/-/- a year when he went through his hard times after giving up farming. Mr Genge was unlikely to pay £10 a week, more likely £/-10/- Or 10/= that is 10 shillings a week less 2/= a week for each child 6/- giving the family only 4/-, but I expect with all found – their food and lodgings. I have used 2/- and 2/= which is the same thing, two shillings and no pence as some times it would be written either way. In the 1930's Harry would have got about £1/10/- a week, it would have increased during the war to around £3/-/- a week. His pension was £1/10/- or thirty shillings a week when he retired in the early 1950's. Not a lot of money but his rent was, I think, controlled at 5/6 [five shillings and six pence] a week – Government restrictions prevented landlords from putting up rents during and after the war. So he was quite well off with butter at 9d a lb etc. His gas and electricity was supplied by a prepayment meter which took shilling coins.

To sum up

$12d = 1s$, $20s = £1$. £1 can be written £1/-/-, a shilling £/-1/- more often 1/-. If it is not a lot of money expect it to be shillings or pence.

CMH # 2Apl2006

D. Based on a personal visit to Tatworth in September 2006, Colin Martin House observed that the once quaint village was changing and becoming more "up market." Unfortunately, The Elms (with its window pane and stone) was no more, being replaced with modern bungalows. However, Downing's Farm remained, but Ye Olde Poppe Inn had lost its final "e."